

THE
LIFE AND REIGN
OF
WILLIAM THE FOURTH.

BY
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IN TWO VOLUMES.

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BOOK THE FOURTH.

CHAPTER I.

A.D. 1810 to 1813.

It was generally expected, even by ministers themselves, that the Regent would have made an immediate change in the cabinet. In this, however, the people were greatly disappointed. The first act of the Prince, on entering upon the duties of his important station, was, to inform Mr. Perceval, that he had no intention to remove any of his Majesty's official servants. His Royal Highness added, that he was led to form this resolution, from a dread lest any act of the Regent might, in the smallest degree, have the effect of interfering with the progress of his sovereign's recovery.

At this time, strong hopes were entertained that the restoration of the afflicted monarch to the entire possession of his mental powers, was not far distant. While the Regency Bill was in progress, symptoms of convalescence made their appearance; and on the 12th of February, the Prince had an interview with his Majesty at Windsor. The meeting is described as having been

highly interesting ; and the conversation on the proceedings that had taken place, was begun by the King himself, who, in the most feeling and rational terms, expressed his approbation of the conduct of his Son and his ministers. This conference lasted nearly two hours, and ended to the satisfaction of both the royal personages.

So steadily did this improvement continue, that the medical reports were suspended, the daily attendance of the physicians was dispensed with, and the pages resumed their accustomed occupations. This progressive recovery went on with such effect, that, about the middle of May, the King made his first appearance in public since the commencement of his malady, and took his favourite ride in Windsor Park, which exercise he repeated several times.

At the beginning of June, the disorder suddenly took an unfavourable turn ; and the hopes that had for some weeks assumed an air of confidence, gave way, and were soon obliterated. The Prince Regent had issued numerous cards of invitation for an entertainment at Carlton House, on the fifth, in honour of his Majesty's birth-day ; but the change that had occurred caused the fete to be put off to the twelfth, and afterwards to the nineteenth ; "when," says the courtly journal, "it took place under the happiest aspect of the heavens, for the night was most serene."

Upon no previous occasion, and at no court in Europe, was ever the experiment made, to set down two thousand of the principal nobility and gentry of the kingdom to a regular supper. About nine o'clock, the whole fashionable world was in motion. Coaches and chariots collecting from all quarters, were seen converging to one

spot ; but, contrary to the laws of attraction, the velocity decreased with the nearness of the approach, and it was past midnight before the whole assemblage was formed within Carlton House. The royal family of France, including Louis the Eighteenth, the Duchess d'Angouleme, and all the princes of the house of Bourbon, entered through the gardens about ten, and were received by the Regent in state.

The conservatory was one of the most distinguished objects of admiration in the arrangement. The building presented, at a glance, the appearance of a lofty aisle in a cathedral. Between the pillars were candelabras, suspended at the height of twelve feet, which spread a blaze of light all around. The grand table extended two hundred feet, the whole length of the conservatory, and across Carlton House. Along the centre, about six inches above the surface, a canal of water continued flowing from a silver fountain at the head of the table. The sides or banks of this stream were covered with green moss and aquatic flowers, while gold and silver fish were seen sporting through the bubbling current, which terminated in a cascade at the outlet. At the head of the table sat the Regent, with his royal guests, and some of his principal friends. On the right hand of the Prince sat the Duchess d'Angouleme, and on his left the Duchess of York.

The aisle opposite the grand conservatory formed a superb promenade, furnished with the finest flowers, orange trees, and fruits. The company sat down to supper about one o'clock ; and all the royal Dukes assisted their brother in doing the honours of the table. The Prince's table being filled, became a blaze of splendour ; and each subordinate one throughout the palace,

and in the temporary constructions, yielded altogether a spectacle not less brilliant than the gorgeous entertainments of Haroon al Raschid.

The Regent and his illustrious visitors rose from table at half-past four, and returned to the grand ball-room, where the dancing was resumed in the face of the newly-risen sun. His Royal Highness, during the night, passed from one room to the other, conversing in the most affable manner with his guests; the number of whom may be ascertained from this, that eighteen hundred and forty-two tickets were received at the front door, and between four and five hundred at the side door: now, as several of these tickets gave admission to two or more visitors, it was computed that the entire company amounted nearly to three thousand persons.

Having given a faint sketch of this magnificent entertainment, it is painful, but necessary, to relate what followed. To gratify the public, whose curiosity had been much excited by the description of the fete, the Prince kindly permitted the arrangements to remain for general inspection on the 24th of June, and the two following days. Immense crowds attended on the first and second days of admission; but though much confusion ensued, no accident occurred till the 26th, when all was bustle at an early hour, and, by six o'clock, carriages were in motion from all parts of the town. The tickets being generally for a company of six or eight, groups of elegantly dressed people were seen advancing to the centre of attraction from every quarter, so that Pall Mall was completely choked by eleven, when the spectators began to be admitted. The method adopted was, to let in about two hundred at a time; and when they had satisfied

their curiosity, to give them egress into the Park. This was repeated every half-hour, till three, by which time the number in front, extending from Carlton House to the Haymarket on the one side, and to St. James's-street on the other, could not be less than thirty thousand. Most of these were females, whose screams and shrieks became so distressing, that the gate was opened ; which, instead of giving relief, increased the evil, for, in the rush to enter, many were thrown down, and trampled upon by those behind them. One lady had her leg broken, and others were carried away apparently dead. Even such as were fortunate enough to escape personal injury, suffered in their dress ; and few of them could leave Carlton House, until they had obtained fresh garments. At half-past four, the Duke of Clarence came forward, and addressed the populace. He told them, that he was desired by his brother, the Regent, to say, that however happy he should be to gratify the public, yet, from the accidents that had occurred, he had found it necessary to close the gates, and to order that they should not be re-opened. Placards to the same purport were fixed on the pillars in the front of the house ; notwithstanding which, a considerable crowd remained in the street till dusk, and then they began rapidly to disperse.

Though no blame was imputable to the Prince Regent for the unpleasant consequences of his good-natured condescension, yet the indulgence itself was certainly an act of imprudence, by drawing together more than could possibly be accommodated.

As the Prince Regent had declared his intention to make no alteration in any department of government, some surprise was expressed at the re-appointment of the Duke of York to the command of the forces.

Lord Morpeth, afterwards Earl of Carlisle, made it the subject of a motion in the House of Commons; but, instead of gaining his object, he found himself in a contemptible minority; and what must have been still more mortifying, many of those who had voted against the Duke, now confessed they had been carried away by public opinion.

In regard to the profession of the Regent, a complete justification was made out by Mr. Perceval, who said, that Sir David Dundas having given in his resignation, there was no person so well qualified for the post as the Duke of York, who had the suffrages of the whole army in his favour. To this it might have been added, that the King, had he retained his mental faculties, intended to have restored the Duke to the station which he formerly filled with so much satisfaction, till popular clamour rendered his retirement necessary as a matter of prudence. That excitement having ceased, and the public feeling having taken a different direction, no reason existed why the Regent should not comply with the wish of his Father, coinciding, as it did, with his own inclinations.

On the termination of the parliamentary session in July, this year, the Duke of Clarence visited the southern and western coast, where much bustle prevailed, in consequence of the information that Buonaparte was at Boulogne, superintending the preparations for his long-threatened invasion. During his stay at that place, Napoleon witnessed a scene, which must have given him some idea of what might be expected, if an attempt was really meditated by him, to cross the channel with an armament.

On the 20th of September, the Naiad frigate, Captain

Carteret, three sloops of war, and a cutter, were attacked by a flotilla of twenty-seven sail, consisting of seven large praams, each as long as a frigate, eleven gun-brigs, and others of smaller size. The action commenced at noon ; our ships were surrounded, but they soon compelled the French admiral to strike, and soon after he ran away. At this time, Buonaparte, who was viewing the action, with Marshal Ney, in a barge, ordered a French commodore out, to assist the admiral. This command was obeyed, and the commodore ran alongside the *Naiad*, with the intention of boarding. Captain Carteret, fearing that the commodore would serve him as the admiral had done, ordered the two ships to be lashed together, and, after a short contest, the Frenchman struck. During this engagement, the admiral and the rest of his fleet made all sail for the harbour ; which so enraged Napoleon, that he directed the guns of the batteries to open upon them, to drive them to sea again—but without effect, for, as the French commodore said, “their emperor sent them to fight men, and they found devils.”

The captured praam was brought into Portsmouth, where she was inspected by the Duke of Clarence. In this visit, a whimsical circumstance occurred, of which the following account was lately inserted in the *Glasgow Courier*, to which it had been communicated by a naval officer. When the Royal Duke went on board the *Naiad*, the ship's company were mustered in their respective divisions. On these occasions, the men are arranged in classes, according to their rating, as regular seamen, or otherwise ; the top-men and forecastle-men taking precedence of all others, as including the best sailors ; the landsmen, under the denominations of after-guard and waisters, being the lowest in degree.

Mr. Green, the first lieutenant, thinking he might presume on the Duke's want of familiarity with naval details, ventured to place five of the best-looking landsmen among the regular blue-jackets—but it would not do. The Duke had not forgotten that indescribable something which impresses a distinctive character on a genuine seaman; and, to the confusion of poor Green, he singled out each of the intruders, and boldly affirmed—which was the truth—that they had never been in a top or on a yard in their lives. He immediately saw the drift of the deception which had been attempted to be practised upon him, and good-naturedly appreciated the feeling that had induced the lieutenant to make the best appearance he could before the Royal Admiral. As he picked successively each unlucky wight out of the rank in which he had been placed, he laughed heartily, and said, "Ah, Mr. Green, here is another of your top-men. Take him away: I know a sailor by head-mark, as well as any of you." If Mr. Green was mortified at the ill success of his manœuvre, the ship's company were delighted with the unexpected display of nautical tact in the Duke. The captain of the fore-top, a tall weather-beaten Cornishman, said to one of his messmates, a regular-going north-country lad, "How his Honour twigged Long Bill, and the rest of 'em; and all because Master Green would have them sailors—the lubbers, that didn't know a weather-earing from a bobstay." "Ay, ay, leave him alone for that, my hearty," rejoined his comrade, "I saw, by the cut of his jib, that he knew a marline spike from a hand-saw, for all Master Green's cleverness. I don't like tricks upon travellers." Among his associates, poor Green fared no better. His "topmen" continued to be a standing joke as long as he remained in the ship, yet

the Duke did not forget the honest lieutenant, for he procured his promotion to the rank of commander, in the course of a few months.

Another instance of royal condescension, and professional attachment, which occurred about this time, is thus related in a country newspaper.

“Most of our readers in Gainsborough and the neighbourhood,” says the editor, “will remember an old man of the name of Matthew Hardcastle, who died only a few years since. The old man had, after the death of his wife, fallen into great poverty, and, having sold what he could, was compelled to apply to the parish for relief. In this distress, he thought, by an application to the Duke of Clarence, with whom he had formerly sailed in the *Prince George*, he should be able to get into Greenwich Hospital. Accordingly, he borrowed money from a kind neighbour, obtained a passage to London, and, after repeated attempts, was fortunate enough to find his Royal Highness at home. On sending in his name, he was admitted; and, as the old man used to say, his Royal Highness met him in the passage, shook him kindly by the hand, took him into a room, and, setting a chair for him and another for himself, entered heartily into a recapitulation of the stories of his youth, when a midshipman on board the *Prince George*, in which Matthew had been master of the magazine, and, in consequence of his situation, somewhat in favour with the Prince. Upon Matthew’s telling his state and his hopes, the Duke was kind enough to say, he would apply for him, but he feared it was too late. However, he was to call again in two days, when he should know the result. Accordingly, Matthew waited upon his royal friend at the time appointed, and was told that nothing could be

done in regard to the hospital: "But, however," said he, "what will make you comfortable, Matthew? I will allow you ten pounds a year as long as you live; and if that won't do, I will help you further. Write to me when you get home, and let me know that you have got safe down." On taking leave, his Royal Highness put into his hand money sufficient to defray his expenses to Gainsborough. Matthew for many years continued to enjoy the royal bounty; and he was never backward in acknowledging the benevolence of the Duke of Clarence.

Towards the close of this year, a change took place in the domestic establishment of the royal Duke, by the dissolution of his connexion with Mrs. Jordan.

As the subject is delicate, and involved in some obscurity, we shall take for our guide the biographer of Mrs. Jordan; though it is evident, that even he laboured under no little perplexity in this part of his narrative. "At length," says our authority, "while she was acting at Cheltenham, a storm burst upon her totally unexpected. She received a letter from his Royal Highness, desiring her to meet him at Maidenhead, where they were to bid each other farewell. Mrs. Jordan had concluded her engagement, but remained one night over, to perform Nell, in the "Devil to Pay," for the manager's benefit. It was in the afternoon of this very day, she received the fatal letter. With that steady kindness that always distinguished her, she arrived at the theatre, dreadfully weakened by a succession of fainting-fits. She, however, struggled on with Nell, until Jobson arrived at the passage, where he has to accuse the conjuror of making her *laughing drunk*. But when the actress attempted to laugh, and the afflicted woman burst into tears, her Jobson, with great presence of mind, altered

the text, and exclaimed,—“Why, Nell, the conjuror has not only made thee drunk, but he has made thee *crying drunk*!” thus covering her personal distress, and carrying her through the distressing scene in character. After the performance, she was put into a travelling chariot, in her stage dress, to keep her appointment with the Duke, in a state of anguish easily to be conceived. What passed at the meeting, I would not wish to detail.—After allowing herself due time to recover her spirits, and endeavour to do herself justice, by making her statement to the Regent—submitting herself entirely to his judgment, and finally to the generous nature of the Duke himself, she thus writes to a confidential friend :—

“My mind is beginning to feel somewhat reconciled to the shock and surprise it has lately received; for could you or the world believe, that we never had, for twenty years, the semblance of a quarrel. But this is so well known in our domestic circle, that the astonishment is the greater. *Money, money*, my good friend, or the want of it, has, I am convinced, made HIM the most wretched of men? but having done wrong, he does not like to retract. But with all his excellent qualities, his domestic virtues, his love for his lovely children, what must he not at this moment suffer? His distresses should have been relieved before; but this is *entre nous*.

“All his letters are full of the most unqualified praise of my conduct; and it is the most heartfelt blessing to know that, to the best of my power, I have endeavoured to deserve it. I have received the greatest kindness and attention from the Regent, and every branch of the Royal Family; who, in the most unreserved terms,

deplore this melancholy business. The whole correspondence is before the Regent, and I am proud to add, that my past and present conduct has secured me a friend, who declares he never will forsake me. 'My forbearance,' he says, 'is beyond what he could have imagined!' But what will not a woman do, who is firmly and sincerely attached? Had he left me to starve, I never would have uttered a word to his disadvantage. And now, my dear friend, do not hear the Duke of C. abused. He has done wrong, and is suffering for it. But as far as he has left it in his own power, he is doing every thing kind and noble, even to the distressing of himself."

In a subsequent letter, she says:—"The constant kindness and attention I meet with from the Duke, in every respect but personal interviews, (and which depends as much on my feelings as his,) has, in a great measure, restored me to my former health and spirits. Among many noble traits of goodness, he has lately added one more, that of exonerating me from my promise of not returning to my profession. This he has done, under the idea of its benefiting my health, and adding to my pleasures and comforts."

On the 7th of December, she wrote a short note to the same friend, in which she says, "The Duke of Clarence has concluded, and settled on me and his children, the most liberal and generous provision; and I trust every thing will sink into oblivion."

But however satisfied this inconsiderate woman might be with the settlement made in her individual favour, she soon found herself in a forlorn condition. Demands, of which she had no conception, or which she vainly supposed had long since been liquidated, so pressed upon

her in consequence of this change in her situation, that, to escape the pitiless storm, and the horrors of a prison, she fled to France ; where she died, the 3d of July, 1816, at the age of fifty, according to the inscription on the stone which covers her remains in the cemetery of St. Cloud ; but another, and seemingly a better authority, says, that she must have been fifty-four at least.

The issue of this connexion, as stated in the public prints, consisted of ten children :—1. Colonel Frederick Fitzclarence, married in 1821, to Lady Augusta Boyle, daughter of the Earl of Glasgow ; 2. George Fitzclarence, Earl of Munster, married to a natural daughter of the Earl of Egremont ; 3. Captain Adolphus Fitzclarence, of the Royal Navy ; 4. The Rev. Augustus Fitzclarence, Rector of Maple Durham in Oxfordshire ; 5. Captain Henry Fitzclarence, who died in India, in 1818 ; 6. Elizabeth, who married the Earl of Errol ; 7. Augusta, who married the Hon. John Erskine Kennedy, second son of the Earl of Cassilis ; 8. Sophia, married to Sir Philip Sidney, afterwards Lord de Lisle ; 9. Mary, married Colonel Fox, a natural son of Lord Holland ; and lastly, Amelia, married at Brighton in December, 1830, to Lord Falkland. The Royal Duke had, as already observed, another son, who was lost at sea ; but whether he was also by Mrs. Jordan, is not ascertained.

The death of Mrs. Jordan at Paris excited less notice than might have been expected, from the peculiar circumstances of her private history and professional character. After seven years, however, had passed away, public attention was drawn to the case of this unfortunate woman, by the announcement of a dividend of five shillings in the pound to her creditors. Upon this, the daily press opened its batteries with extraordinary

vehemence against the illustrious personage under whose protection Mrs. Jordan had so long lived. Some explanation, therefore, became indispensably necessary, to remove the impression made by these attacks; and, accordingly, Mr. Barton of the Mint, and the confidential friend of the Royal Duke for thirty-six years, published an elaborate refutation of the evil reports that were in circulation.

In this statement, Mr. Barton says:—"All who know the Duke or his connexions intimately, are acquainted with the truth; but none being so fully possessed of the whole case as myself, I feel that any further forbearance would amount to a dereliction of duty on my part; and, therefore, in justice to a much-injured character, I take upon myself to submit the following statement to the public; acquainting them, in the first place, that it was through my hands the whole transaction upon the separation of the Duke and Mrs. Jordan passed; that it was at my suggestion Mrs. Jordan adopted the resolution of leaving this country for France, to enable her the more readily and honourably to extricate herself from the troubles into which she had fallen through a misplaced confidence; and that I possess a correspondence with Mrs. Jordan, subsequent to her leaving England, which corroborates my statement in the minutest points. Upon the separation which took place between Mrs. Jordan and the Duke in the year 1811, it was agreed that she should have the care, until a certain age, of her four youngest daughters; and a settlement was made by the Duke for the payment, by him, of the following amounts:—1. For the maintenance of the daughters, £1,500. 2. A house and carriage for their use, £600. 3. For Mrs. Jordan, £1,500. 4. And to enable her to

provide for the children of a former connexion, £800.; making, in all, £4,400 a year. It was stipulated, that in the event of Mrs. Jordan's resuming her profession, the care of the daughters by the Duke of Clarence, together with the sum for their maintenance, should revert to his Royal Highness; which event did take place in the course of a few months, in consequence of Mrs. Jordan's desire to accept certain proposals made to her to perform again on the stage."

It is then stated, "that the Duke allowed gratuitously to each of Mrs. Jordan's two married daughters, by a previous connexion, two hundred pounds a year. "Who then," it is asked, "after this statement of facts, shall accuse the Duke of Clarence with want of generosity towards Mrs. Jordan, or her memory?"

Mr. Barton thus winds up his narrative: "I must conclude with one assurance, that, after having given a true, and, I trust, candid recital of facts, I shall treat with contempt any thing further that may be said on this subject; resting satisfied, if, after an attachment of six-and-thirty years' service to a good and generous master, I shall have added any thing to his comfort, in convincing a single individual of the injustice he has sustained."

This is well; but it must be allowed that the case of the unfortunate woman was a distressing one. The chambers she occupied at Paris were shabby—and no English comforts solaced her in her latter moments. In her little drawing-room, a small old sofa was the best looking piece of furniture. On this she constantly reclined, and on this she died.

CHAPTER II.

A. D. 1812 TO 1814.

ON the 21st of December, 1811, died Sir Peter Parker, admiral of the fleet; and three days afterwards, his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence was gazetted as the successor of that veteran commander. The period being now approaching for the removal of the restrictions on the Regent, the Prince, in a letter to the Duke of York, proposed the formation of an extended administration, on a liberal basis, by the admission of Earl Grey and Lord Grenville into the cabinet. The two noble personages, however, declined the overture; and no other change took place than that of the appointment of Lord Castlereagh to the office of foreign secretary, on the resignation of the Marquis Wellesley. Thus matters stood till the 11th of May, 1812, when another opening occurred, by the assassination of Mr. Perceval. The Marquis Wellesley was now empowered to form an arrangement; but when it was understood that he was to be the prime minister, the same two lords declined taking any part in the cabinet. Earl Moira was then authorized to treat with them, on unconditional terms; but when they demanded the dismissal of the household officers of the Regent, the noble negociator indignantly spurned at the unreasonable requisition; and, as neither party would recede, the treaty ended, and the Earl of Liverpool became first lord of the treasury.

We must now take a rapid glance at the seat of war. On the 22d of July was fought the great battle of Salamanca, in which, as well as in most of the principal actions of the Peninsular war, three sons of the Duke of Clarence fought with distinguished valour, under the immediate observation of Lord Wellington. But a storm, still more portentous to Europe, was gathering in the north. At the beginning of April, Napoleon made an affected overture of peace with England; but the conditions of recognizing Joseph as king of Spain, and Murat as king of Naples, were too preposterous to be listened to. Thus the correspondence ended; and, on the 22d of June, Buonaparte, having assembled an army of nearly half a million of men, French and auxiliaries, on the frontier of Russia, issued a declaration of war against the Emperor Alexander.

Previous to passing the Niemen, the boaster thus addressed his legions, which extended one hundred and fifty miles along the banks of that river: "Russia is dragged along by a fatality! Her destinies must be accomplished!" This was an oracle—but in an opposite sense to that which was in the mind of him by whom it was uttered. How different was this from the language of Alexander, in his proclamation! "Providence," said the emperor, "will crown with success our just cause. The defence of our native country, the maintenance of our independence and national honour, have compelled us to have recourse to arms. I will not sheathe my sword so long as there is an enemy within my borders." The lapse of a few months sufficed to determine between the two predictions;—that of the despot who trusted in numbers and destiny—and that of him who relied upon the justice of his cause and a retributive providence. Napoleon,

after seeing the ancient capital of Muscovy in flames, retraced his steps without subjugating the empire of Russia, and on the 18th of December, 1812, he returned home, to defend his own.

It was a remarkable coincidence, that at the very moment when Napoleon commenced his invasion of Russia, Madison, the president of the United States of America, declared war against Great Britain, and that too in the middle of a negociation for the adjustment of all differences between the two powers. But the Americans gained as little by their precipitate outrage, as their Imperial friend did by his northern expedition. The republicans gained some advantages in the capture of a few inferior ships of war; but all their attempts to annex Canada to the United States failed with disgrace. Even the naval achievements of the Americans were owing to the magnitude of their ships; what they rated as sloops of war being equal to frigates, and their frigates to ships of the line. Thus, it was not to be wondered, that in some actions victory should be on the side of the strongest: but the casualties which the naval service suffered were less painful than the mortification inflicted upon the spirit of the British tars, by being obliged to strike, under such circumstances, to an enemy, whom, but for this disproportion of strength, they would have contemned.

In proof of this, no other evidence need be adduced, than the action between the British frigate Shannon, of forty-four guns, and the United States frigate, of forty-nine guns, off Boston harbour, on the first of June, 1813. The American came out with a volunteer crew, and in fine order, having three flags flying, as if assured of victory. Captain Broke, of the Shannon, though he had

a short complement of hands, was ready for the combat; which began at half-past five, and in fifteen minutes the old British union floated over the republican ensign.

How little the Americans regarded the principles of honourable warfare at this period, appeared in their horrible attempt to blow up the *Ramillies*, Captain Sir Thomas Hardy. On Friday, the 25th of June, the *Ramillies* being off New London, the master's mate was sent in a boat to board a schooner; which he effected, the people having deserted her, after letting go her only anchor and cable. The officer brought the schooner near the *Ramillies*, and informed Sir Thomas Hardy that she was laden with provisions and naval stores. Sir Thomas ordered her to be taken alongside a sloop, which had been captured a few days before. Mr. Geddes volunteered his services; and to put the orders into execution, took with him a fresh boat's crew. Whilst they were in the act of securing the schooner, about half-past two o'clock, she blew up, with a most tremendous explosion, and poor Geddes, with ten valuable seamen, lost their lives; three men escaped, but not without being terribly scorched. It was discovered that this vessel had been fitted out by two merchants of New York, in consequence of the American government having offered half the value of the British men-of-war so destroyed, for the express purpose of blowing up the *Ramillies*; and hearing that the ship was short of provisions and stores, they placed some on the hatchway, as an inducement for taking her alongside. Underneath the provisions were deposited several casks of gunpowder, with trains laid to a machine, which was constructed upon the principles of clock-work. When it ran out the time given to it on winding up,

it gave force to a sort of gun-lock, and the explosion followed, to the destruction of any ship that might be near the infernal engine.

Such is the account, as given by Sir Thomas Hardy himself—and it confirmed what the late Earl of Stanhope had stated in the House of Lords, respecting this infernal invention; the author of which was Fulton, an engineer, who is more honourably known by having first applied the agency of steam to navigation.

The campaign in Spain was opened by Lord Wellington's breaking up from Ciudad Rodrigo, and advancing towards Madrid; which city, Joseph Buonaparte with Marshal Jourdan abandoned, and proceeded to Vittoria, the grand depôt of the French army. Here the last stand was made by the intruder, who suffered a total defeat on the 21st of June. One hundred and fifty pieces of cannon were taken, and four hundred and fifteen ammunition and baggage waggons, among which were Joseph's equipage, and all the treasure he had been able to collect from the churches, palaces, and private houses in Madrid.

On the termination of the battle, a curious spectacle was exhibited. "It is impossible to conceive," says an eye-witness, "the comic incidents that occurred almost in the same instant with the most frightful scenes of horror. The work of death and destruction was scarcely brought to a conclusion, when, our brave fellows having gained possession of the enemy's baggage, all was riot—the army chest was forced open, and the men began to load themselves with bullion. To stop them was impossible. Some of the officers reported to the general, that the men were plundering and carrying off the money. 'Let them,' said Lord Wellington; 'they have fought

well, and deserve all they can find, were it ten times more.”

Among the articles of most value, that fell into their hands, was the richly ornamented baton or staff of Marshal Jourdan; which, being carried to the British general, was sent home with the despatches to the Prince Regent, who, in return, wrote the following letter to Lord Wellington, with his own hand :

“ Carlton House, July 3, 1813.

“ MY DEAR LORD,

“ Your glorious conduct is beyond all human praise, and far above my reward : I know no language the world affords, worthy to express it. I feel I have nothing left to say, but devoutly to offer up my prayers of gratitude to Providence, that it has, in its omnipotent bounty, blessed my country and myself with such a general. You have sent me, among the trophies of your unrivalled fame, the staff of a French marshal; and I send you, in return, that of England. The British army will hail it with enthusiasm; while the whole universe will acknowledge those valorous efforts, which have so imperiously called for it. That uninterrupted health, and still increasing laurels, may continue to crown you through a glorious and long career of life, are the never-ceasing and most ardent wishes of,

“ My dear Lord,

“ Your most sincere,

“ and faithful Friend,

“ The Marquis of Wellington.”

“ G. P. R.”

In the battle of Vittoria, and the subsequent one of the Pyrenees, as also in all the operations of the British army in Spain and France, the three sons of the Duke of Clarence eminently distinguished themselves; under the immediate observation of their illustrious commander, and on all occasions with his approbation. Two of these,

the present Earl of Munster, and his younger brother Henry, were in the same regiment ; Colonel Frederick Fitzclarence was in a different division. At all times, and on the most perilous points of danger, especially at the actions of Orthes and Toulouse, which terminated the war in the south, these young heroes were ever in the front of the fire, and among the first to engage in desperate service. In the first of the two battles just mentioned, a circumstance occurred, which was never inserted in the general's despatches, and of course was passed over unnoticed in the gazette. At the very moment of victory, the Duke of Wellington was struck by a grape-shot in the hip. He, however, concealed the injury at the time ; but it was so severe, that he could not dismount without assistance. The hilt of the sword, which was bent by the ball, was providentially interposed between his person and the bullet ; otherwise, in all probability, the consequence would have been fatal.

The destinies of Napoleon were now fast winding up ; and the battle of Leipsic may be said to have completed the warp. One of the immediate results of that tremendous event, was the emancipation of Holland from the yoke of France. After an exile of nineteen years, the Prince of Orange made his entrance into Amsterdam. Reinforcements were now sent with all haste from England, to co-operate with the Dutch patriots ; and, at the same time, the Prussians, under General Bulow, marched into the eastern provinces. The British troops were commanded by Sir Thomas Graham, now Lord Lynedoch, who was supported by the Duke of Clarence, both at the bombardment of Antwerp and the siege of Bergen-op-zoom. His Royal Highness, on one of these occasions, received a contusion from the explosion of a shell ; but

the injury was slight, and did not impede his exertions. The Duke at this time acted in a double capacity, being occasionally on board the *Jason* frigate, which carried his flag, and at other times aiding in the military operations, chiefly with Sir George Hoste, of the royal engineers. His Royal Highness, however, had not the satisfaction of witnessing the fall of either of those strong holds, which did not yield, till the fate of Napoleon was sealed by the entrance of the allies into Paris, and his expatriation to Elba.

On leaving the Scheldt, the Duke of Clarence took on board the *Jason*, the Grand Duchess of Oldenburgh, sister to the Emperor Alexander; and on Tuesday, the 29th of March, her Imperial Highness landed at Sheerness. The next morning, the illustrious stranger proceeded to town in one of the Regent's carriages, accompanied by the Royal Admiral, and, on her arrival, took up her residence at the Pulteney Hotel, which had been previously prepared for her reception.

On the 20th of April, the inhabitants of the metropolis assembled to witness the extraordinary spectacle of the public entry of a king of France. Louis the Eighteenth being recalled to the throne of his ancestors, was invited by the Prince Regent to display his regal dignity first in the capital of England; and the sentiment of his Royal Highness was felt and responded to by the public at large. At four in the morning, the Prince's state carriage, with seven other equipages and outriders, set out for Stanmore, where his majesty was to breakfast. His Royal Highness himself arrived at the Abercorn Arms at two o'clock, and soon after, the king was drawn into the village by the populace, who, on the first appearance of the carriage, took out the horses. The Prince Regent was

at the door to receive his majesty, and they embraced according to the French fashion, after which the conversation was carried on in that language. At a little after three, the procession set out; the king and the Regent being together in the same carriage.

On their arrival at Grillon's Hotel in Albemarle-street, where apartments had been prepared for his majesty, he was received by about one hundred of the French, and a number of the English nobility. After the monarch had taken his seat, the Regent addressed him to the following effect :—

“Your Majesty will permit me to offer you my heartiest congratulations upon the great event, which has always been among the warmest of my wishes; and which must eminently contribute to the happiness, not only of your majesty's people, but to the repose and happiness of all other nations. I am sure I may add, that my own sentiments and feelings are in unison with those of the universal British nation; and that the triumph and transport with which your majesty will be received in your own capital, can scarcely exceed the joy and satisfaction which your majesty's restoration to the throne of your ancestors has created in the capital of the British empire.”

To this speech the king replied :—“Your Royal Highness will accept my most sincere and grateful thanks for your congratulations, and for the invariable kindness with which I have been treated by your Royal Highness, and by every member of your illustrious house. It is to your Royal Highness's councils—to this great country—and to the constancy of its people, that I shall always ascribe, under Providence, the restoration of our house to the throne of our ancestors, and that state of affairs

which promises to heal the wounds, to calm the passions, and to restore the peace, tranquillity, and prosperity of all nations."

The King then, assisted by the Prince de Conde, and the Duke of Bourbon, taking the riband of the order of Saint Esprit from his own shoulder, and the star from his breast, invested the Prince with the same, professing his happiness that it should be upon his Royal Highness he had the honour of first conferring the ancient order on his restoration. The Prince Regent and the English nobility then withdrew. The following day the King and his family dined at Carlton House, where a Chapter of the Garter was held, when his majesty was invested with the insignia of that order. At the same time the King conferred the order of Saint Esprit on the Duke of York.

On the 23d, at the hour of eight, his majesty with his relatives left London for Dover, where the Prince had arrived two hours before, to receive the King; a mark of delicate respect, which made a strong impression upon every mind capable of feeling. At one o'clock in the afternoon of the following day, the Royal Sovereign yacht sailed from Dover under a salute from all the batteries; the Prince Regent, who had taken his station on the pier head, cheering as she passed, in which he was joined by all the spectators. On reaching the roads, the King was received by a royal salute from the ships of war, among which was the Jason, the flag-ship of the Duke of Clarence, which accompanied the yacht to the French coast, and then returned to England.

The Emperor Alexander and the King of Prussia having expressed an intention of visiting this country, the Duke of Clarence shifted his flag, as admiral of the fleet, from the Jason to the Impregnable, for the purpose of receiving,

and conveying them to the British shore. Accordingly, on the 6th of June, their majesties embarked at Boulogne, under a discharge of artillery from the shore, and were received on board the *Impregnable* with a royal salute, which naval ceremonial was repeated when they landed the same evening at Dover. The Duke of Clarence had previously provided a splendid entertainment, of which the illustrious personages partook with much cheerfulness. The next morning early, the royal party set out for London, and when the Emperor Alexander arrived at the Pulteney Hotel, he alighted, entered the house, and passed through the lower apartments without being recognized. He ascended the first flight of stairs, when the Prince Gagarin announced "The Emperor !" At the same instant the Grand Duchess met her brother on the stairs, and they embraced in the most affectionate manner. The tidings of the Emperor's arrival resounded not only throughout the house, but in the street, where an immense concourse of people assembled, and testified their joy by loud acclamations.

At half past four, the Emperor went to Carlton House, but so privately, that the escort of horse appointed to attend his majesty, missed him ; but they waited upon him, in his return to the hotel. The Prince Regent had prepared a residence for his imperial majesty in the palace of St. James's, but Alexander chose rather to be with his sister and her young family, to whom he was much attached. However, he made use of the Duke of Cumberland's apartments, for state purposes. The King of Prussia and his sons, with Field-marshal Blucher, took up their residence, as long as they staid, at the house of the Duke of Clarence.

From this time to the twenty-second, there was a con-

tinued round of festivities, reviews, and spectacles, in honour of the imperial and royal visitors, the bare enumeration of which would exceed the restricted limits of this memoir. In the splendid scenes at London and Oxford, the Duke of Clarence bore no part, being occupied at Portsmouth in making preparations for an exhibition more suited to his taste, and more worthy of the national character. On the morning of the 22d, the Emperor and his suite left the hotel for Coombe Wood, the seat of Lord Liverpool, where his majesty was soon after joined by the King of Prussia and his sons. The Prince Regent, accompanied by the Duke of Cambridge, proceeded direct to Portsmouth, to receive his illustrious friends and guests. They did not, however, arrive there till the evening, and too late to be present at the dinner which had been provided for them at the government house. Early the next morning, the royal standards floated over the public buildings, and the Regent, with the Duke of York, drove to the residence of the Emperor, where they were soon joined by the King of Prussia, the Princes, and the Duke of Saxe Weimar.

The company walked from thence to the place of embarkation, where the whole naval procession, headed by the Duke of Clarence, was ready for their reception. It commenced by the barges commanded by captains clearing the way. The Admiralty barge came first, and was followed by the Royal barge, with the standard of Great Britain; then two other barges, one bearing the Russian flag of yellow with the black spread eagle, and the other of white, with the sable eagle of Prussia. These elegant barges contained the Emperor and his sister, the King and his relatives, many German princes, and the respective suites of the three royal personages. The procession

passed along the line of men-of-war, amid a general salute from each ship, the yards of which were all manned, and the crews by their cheers seemed to emulate the roaring of the cannon. The Duke of Clarence had previously gone on board the Impregnable, to welcome his august visitors. A short interval elapsed after their going on board, when the Emperor came to the entering port, where he stood some minutes bowing very graciously to the surrounding spectators. The Prussian monarch did the same; also the Duchess of Oldenberg; the Prince Regent; and his brothers. Another grand salute was then fired, mixed with the cheering of the ships' companies.

Soon after the royal party came on board, they proceeded to explore the ship. The Regent was very curious and attentive. The King of Prussia examined much, and appeared to be a very careful observer. Alexander lost not a moment; he left the main deck, and went about the ship alone for some time. He then took his sister, and descended to the place where the crew were receiving their allowance at twelve o'clock. He made inquiry concerning it, and asked what quantity of water was added to the rum? Being told that the proportion was as six to one, a tar observed, that it would be no worse for being stronger. Alexander requested the usual allowance, and drank it off readily; then, with a smile, expressed his approbation of the liquor, "which," said he in English, "you call grog, and I think it very good." He had a smaller quantity poured out for the Duchess, who drank it with much good humour.

The men on this occasion were indulged with an extra allowance. Alexander then went into the marines' birth, where about eleven were at dinner. He seated

himself by them, and took a portion of their mess : after which he pulled out a sum of money, and left it with the company, bidding them “good-bye.” The sons of the King of Prussia also drank grog with the men, and enjoyed it with satisfaction. A grand collation was now prepared in the cabin, where a superb display of the Regent’s plate decorated the tables. Admiral Blackwood, captain of the fleet, and Mr. Adam, captain of the ship, did the honours of the table. On their return to the deck, nothing could exceed the satisfaction of the guests. At leaving the Impregnable, salutes were again fired ; after which the royal party repaired to the government house, where another grand banquet was given by the Prince Regent to near one hundred and fifty persons.

On the 24th, the royal party proceeded to view the various establishments of the yard and arsenal. The ships building or repairing, the stores of every description, the rope house, the copper works, and all the other important branches, were examined with much attention. But the Emperor and King appeared most struck by the machinery for making ships’ blocks, the rapid operation of which excited their admiration. At about two o’clock, the royal barges left the King’s stairs at the dock yard, to pay another visit to the fleet. On their arrival they went on board the Royal Sovereign yacht, which immediately hoisted the national standard. The Emperor had previously gone with the Duke of Clarence on board the Impregnable, the interior of which vessel seemed to afford his imperial majesty peculiar delight ; and he was no less assiduous than before, in making himself acquainted with nautical arrangements. The fleet now formed a line of seven or eight miles in extent, in front of the Isle of Wight. A general salute was fired ; after which, the

cables were slipped, and they immediately got under sail with a brisk gale at north east. The Royal Sovereign led the van, the yachts, barges, and above two hundred vessels of all descriptions, sailed out, keeping at various distances from the fleet. At about five o'clock, the line-of-battle ships hove-to by signal, when the Prince Regent and the King of Prussia left the Royal Sovereign, and went to the Emperor in the Impregnable, to which the royal standard was consequently shifted. At this time, the leading ships were about twelve miles from Portsmouth; and after taking some refreshment, the whole returned to their anchorage. •

The wind was not so favourable for sailing back; but the general effect was improved by so many vessels of war and pleasure-boats turning to windward through a narrow channel, the large ships ranging up alongside the smaller ones; and the frequent repetition of signals in both directions along the line, with the accuracy of the naval movements, presented one of the grandest sights imaginable. At night, the Prince, of ninety-eight guns, was splendidly illuminated; and so were all the public buildings and private houses.

At eleven next morning, the Prince Regent and the allied sovereigns left Portsmouth for Portsdown Hill, where about seven thousand troops were drawn up in review order. After their majesties had inspected them, they drove to Goodwood, to breakfast with the Duke of Richmond. From thence they proceeded to Petworth, where they dined with the Earl of Egremont. On the 26th, being Sunday, the royal party arrived at Dover; and the following morning, the two sovereigns took leave of each other, and of the happy shore of England, as Alexander emphatically expressed himself; adding also,

that it was the greatest country in the world. The King of Prussia embarked on board the *Nymphen* frigate in the forenoon, and landed at Calais the same evening. The Emperor and his sister went on board a yacht at half past six; and their departure was very affecting, insomuch that, had the illustrious visitors been of our own royal lineage, they could not have made a stronger impression upon the people, than they uniformly did all the time they were here, by their pleasing manners and liberality.

Just as the yacht entered the road of Calais, the frigate that had conveyed thither the King of Prussia, came out with the Duke of Wellington, who landed the next morning at Dover, and was borne to the Ship tavern on the shoulders of the people, amidst the shouts of at least five thousand persons.

The 7th of July was observed as a day of general thanksgiving, for the restoration of peace to this country and to Europe. The Prince Regent and the two houses of parliament went in grand procession to the metropolitan cathedral, where the spectacle had a solemn but exhilarating effect. The Duke of Wellington walked on the right hand of his Royal Highness, from the carriage to his seat in the church, preceded by the Dukes of Cambridge, Sussex, Gloucester, Kent, Clarence, and York.

This, though not an unusual scene of royal grandeur, was a much more appropriate and becoming mode of celebrating a national benefit, than what took place on the first of August in the three parks, where the public were entertained with a fair, mimic temples in the Chinese fashion, fireworks, an air balloon, and, above all the rest, a naval engagement on the Serpentine river.

But all pleasure has its alloy. While the Regent was endeavouring to do honour to his foreign guests, and to

gratify the people with amusement, his domestic peace was disturbed by the parliamentary discussion of his differences with the Princess of Wales. Scarcely was this unpleasant business brought to an end, as far as pecuniary arrangement could effect it, when the elopement of the Princess Charlotte from the paternal protection to the house of her mother, furnished fresh matter for scandalous reflection and royal disquietude.

Nor was the Duke of Clarence without his personal troubles.

On the return of the tenth regiment of hussars from the Continent, several of the officers, among whom were Captain George Fitzclarence, and his brother Lieutenant Henry Fitzclarence, preferred charges against Colonel Quentin, their commander, for neglect of duty; for not making such effectual attempts as he ought to have done at the battles of Orthes and Tholouse; and for allowing a relaxed state of discipline. A court-martial was in consequence held at the barracks of Rumford, upon Colonel Quentin, which ended, on the first of November, in the acquittal of the accused, and in a severe censure of his prosecutors, as having all co-operated in a compact against their commanding officer, fraught with evils of the most injurious tendency to the discipline of the service. The Prince Regent, on confirming this sentence, said, "It is essential that conduct so injurious in its nature should be held forth to the army, as a warning in support of subordination; and his Royal Highness has therefore commanded, that the officers who signed the letter of the 9th of August shall no longer act together as a corps, but that they shall be distributed by exchange through the different regiments of cavalry in the service, where they may learn, and confine themselves to, their

subordinate duties, until their services and experience shall sanction their being placed in ranks and situations where they may be allowed to judge of the general and higher duties of the profession."

The sons of the Duke of Clarence were visited for their indiscretion with much heavier portion of the royal displeasure, than even their leaders in this unfortunate business. Notwithstanding their services, connexion, and youth, the junior brother being no more than eighteen, they were almost immediately banished to India. It has even been said, that Colonel M'Mahon wrote to the captain of the frigate in which the two delinquents embarked, directing him to treat both with marked disrespect, but that the brave officer spurned the injunction with the honest indignation and true spirit of a British seaman.

That the young gentlemen acted imprudently, under their peculiar circumstances, can hardly be doubted; but at the same time it must be admitted, that the treatment which they received savoured strongly of personal resentment and persecution. Much obloquy fell in consequence upon the Prince Regent and the Duke of York, on this occasion; and a caricature was published, in which Colonel Quentin was represented as pursued by a squadron of hussars, from whose vengeance he was drawn through a river by his royal patrons. It is but justice, however, to state, that the Colonel redeemed his character as a brave man, at the battle of Waterloo, where he was severely wounded.

CHAPTER III.

A. D. 1814 TO 1817.

It was thought that the restoration of peace in Europe, and the cessation of hostilities with America, had closed the temple of Janus for a long period of years, to make up for the immense waste of human life, that had, during the space of nearly a quarter of a century, been sacrificed to Moloch. There were not wanting, however, men of deeper observation, who saw in this confidence a false security, and considered the moderation of the Allies as dangerous to the tranquillity of the world. Even at the time, when the Emperor Alexander and the King of Prussia were gratifying the people of England with their presence, one of the public journals had this ominous remark, "It would not in the least astonish us, to hear of Buonaparte having quitted the Isle of Elba." A gentleman, then on his travels, who passed the Undaunted frigate, then proceeding with the deprived emperor to his allotted residence, said in a private letter, "You may rely upon it, he is too near Italy. I hope a sharp eye will be kept upon him. Such is his knowledge of human nature, that he has left the officers of the ship impressed with a much more favourable opinion of him than he deserves."

Instead, however, of keeping a due watch upon the movements of this extraordinary character, it seemed as if they who had the charge of looking after him were

mere honorary appendants and representatives of regality. Facilities were in abundance, to effect an escape ; and, on the first of March, 1815, Napoleon relanded at or near the very place where, about fifteen years before, he disembarked in his return from Egypt. On both occasions, he was fortunate enough to elude British vigilance: but the destiny which favoured him in the former instance, was now preparing for himself a terrible downfall, and for the world an awful example. The battle of Waterloo closed the history of Napoleon, but it was in letters of blood ; and the rubric stands as a warning to all nations to avoid revolutions, and wars of ambition. Here also statesmen were taught, at a dreadful expense, a lesson of practical wisdom, which could not be expressed in better language than in the toast given by the veteran Blucher at a grand dinner at Paris, where he and the Duke of Wellington were the distinguished guests :—“ May the ministers of the allied powers,” said the hoary warrior, “ not lose by their pens, what the army has gained by the sword.”

But we must now turn to domestic history. In the early part of this year, the Duke of Cumberland, while residing on the continent, married his cousin, the Dowager Princess of Salms, daughter of the Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, and niece to the Queen of England. The royal lady had accepted the addresses of the Duke of Cambridge, before the King’s illness ; but on some account or other, she subsequently changed her mind in favour of the Duke of Cumberland. The Queen was so displeased at this conduct, and some other circumstances, that, when her son came with his bride, to renew the marriage according to the English rites, and in conformity to the statute, neither her Majesty, nor any of the Princesses,

honoured the ceremony with their presence; although the Duke of Mecklenburg accompanied the royal pair, for the purpose of reconciling his sister to the match. The duke himself was received at the private parties of the Queen at Windsor, but his daughter and her consort were expressly excluded. Shortly afterwards, all three returned to Germany; not only disappointed by the reception they had met with, where it was least to have been expected, but further mortified by the parliamentary rejection of the proposed grant to the Duke of Cumberland, of an addition to his income on account of his marriage.

The Duke of Mecklenburg died of an apoplexy at his palace of Strelitz, on the sixth of November, aged seventy-five. He had been many years in the Hanoverian service, previous to the year 1794, when he succeeded to the ducal honours and estates. No prince could be more sincerely beloved by his subjects; and, though compelled, against his inclination, to join the Confederation of the Rhine, he managed matters with such judgment, that the inhabitants of Mecklenburg suffered less by that measure than most of their neighbours. He was twice married, and to two sisters of the house of Darmstadt. By the first, he had four children—the Grand Duke Charles, his successor; the Duchesses of Hildburghausen and Cumberland; and the Princess of Tour and Taxis: by the second, he had only one son.

Another royal marriage took place this year, which gave general satisfaction to the people. Under the peculiar circumstances of the reigning family, the Princess Charlotte had become an interesting object of national attachment, on account of her near relation to the throne. For a considerable time, it was commonly believed that a union was about to be formed between the fair hope of

Britain, and the young Prince of Orange, who was certainly a favourite with the royal family, and also with the public, by having been educated in this country, and having served under the illustrious Wellington throughout the whole of the Peninsular war.

But female affections are seldom directed by policy. Among the numerous strangers of rank that visited England in the summer of 1814, was a younger branch of the house of Saxe-Coburg Saalfeld. It has been confidently affirmed, that Prince Leopold had no thought of the good fortune that awaited him, till, on presenting a letter from the Duke of Brunswick to the Princess, he perceived such symptoms of encouragement as could not be misunderstood. In consequence of these marks of attention, the favoured lover is reported to have waited upon the Regent, and, after making him acquainted with all that had passed, and the particular notice paid him by the Princess, to have submitted his readiness to leave the kingdom, if such should be the will of his Royal Highness. The answer was as favourable as could be wished, and from that hour Prince Coburg was regarded as the intended spouse of the presumptive heiress to the British throne.

All this, if true to the letter, was indeed love at first sight; but there are some questionable points in the narrative, positively as it is asserted, and simply as it is told. In the first place, a letter from the Duke of Brunswick to his niece was proper enough; but then, why send it by a young German prince, little, if at all, known, even in the royal circle? Had the Duke wished merely to introduce his friend to the English court, the better and more becoming course would have been by constituting the prince the bearer of a letter to the Regent himself. According to the story, the Princess was the first to make

her advances, contrary to the ordinarily received and long-established rules of courtship; and in plainer language, it may be said, in a manner not very delicate. Here, however, the subject must be dropped. The tale, as told, would not do, even for a romance of the days of chivalry, and much less so for this age of refinement. It is sufficient to say, that the mission was preconcerted, and, whether fortunately for this country or not, it succeeded.

On the 14th of March, 1816, a message to both houses of parliament announced the royal assent to the marriage; on the day following, large grants to the illustrious couple were proposed in the commons, and passed with all imaginable despatch; and on the second of May, the nuptials were solemnized at Carlton House, the Princess being supported to the altar by her uncle, the Duke of Clarence.

This event, which was hailed as equally auspicious to the nation and the royal family, was followed on the 22d of July, by the marriage, at the Queen's House, of the Duke of Gloucester and the Princess Mary, between whom an attachment had grown up from childhood. On this occasion, no application was made to parliament for any pecuniary grant whatever, either by way of outfit or annuity.

Of the great national occurrences of this year, the naval expedition against the piratical states of Barbary was the principal. This important business was intrusted to Lord Exmouth, who was instructed to mediate a peace between those powers and the kingdoms of Sardinia and Naples; to demand that the Ionian islands should be respected as British possessions; and to procure, if possible, the total abolition of Christian slavery.

The admiral found no difficulty in treating with the Tunisian and Tripolitan chiefs ; but the Dey of Algiers refused his consent to the last proposition, till he had consulted the Ottoman court, for which purpose an ambassador was despatched to Constantinople. Without waiting for an answer, however, the Dey commenced hostilities by imprisoning the British consul, and perpetrating a horrible massacre on the Europeans engaged in the coral fishery at Bona. In consequence of these outrages, Lord Exmouth returned to Algiers, which, on the refusal of the Dey to make satisfaction, was bombarded ; the Queen Charlotte, bearing the admiral's flag, commencing the attack. The place, strong by nature, and made still stronger by additional works, was long and obstinately defended. A tremendous fire on both sides was kept up from a quarter before three to nine, without intermission, and partially for two hours longer. But British heroism overcame all resistance : the Algerine batteries were destroyed ; and the navy, the arsenal, and all the military stores, were consumed by fire. Upon this, the Dey, finding the case hopeless, yielded to every demand ; and, to the glory of humanity, the admiral crowned his victory by receiving on board his fleet all the slaves, of whatever nation, that were in the dominions of the Dey, who also refunded the money he had received for the redemption of captives since the beginning of the year. The persons now liberated were freely conveyed to their own shores, and the ransom money that had been thus recovered was transmitted, without deduction, to the courts of Sardinia and Naples, from whence it had been originally sent. Such was the service rendered to Christendom by the navy of Great Britain. Well, therefore, might the noble admiral say, in the

exordium to his official despatch, dated on the twenty-eighth of August—

“In all the vicissitudes of a long life of public service, no circumstance has ever produced on my mind such impressions of gratitude and joy, as the event of yesterday. To have been one of the humble instruments, in the hands of Divine Providence, for bringing to reason a ferocious government, and destroying for ever the insufferable and horrid system of Christian slavery, can never cease to be a source of delight and heartfelt comfort to every individual happy enough to be employed in it. I may, I hope, be permitted, under such impressions, to offer my sincere congratulations to their Lordships, on the complete success which attended the gallant efforts of his Majesty's fleet in their attack upon Algiers yesterday, and the happy result produced from it on this day, by the signature of peace.”

During the action, as Lord Exmouth and Captain Brisbane were conversing together, the latter was struck flat on the deck by a spent ball. The admiral immediately called on the first lieutenant, and said,—“Poor Brisbane is gone, take the command!” This roused the captain, who had only been stunned, and he exclaimed, “Not yet, my lord;” and immediately got up, to resume his station. Lord Exmouth himself received two wounds in the contest; one in the cheek, and another in the thigh; but such was his modesty, he omitted all mention of either in his despatches.

On the 27th of January, this year, the venerable admiral, Lord Hood, one of the earliest friends and instructors of the Duke of Clarence, died at Bath. This veteran had attained the extraordinary age of ninety-two; and his younger brother, though senior officer, Lord Brid-



LORD PELLEW, VISCOUNT EXMOUTH, G.C.B. & S.

Exmouth

port, who died at Bath, in 1814, was eighty-seven—two instances of longevity in one family, and of the same service, not easily paralleled. By the death of Lord Hood, the governorship of Greenwich Hospital became vacant; which, on the earnest recommendation of the Duke of Clarence, the Prince Regent conferred upon Sir Richard Keats.

The year 1817 exhibited throughout a very dismal and ominous appearance. When the Prince Regent opened parliament on the 28th of January, he was assailed in going and returning to the House of Lords, by an immense mob, who not only loaded him with the most abusive epithets, but attacked his person. The glass on one side of the carriage was perforated by bullets discharged from an air-gun; and though a reward of one thousand pounds was offered for the discovery of the perpetrators of the outrage, it was without effect. The times were certainly bad, and the distresses of the people were great; but they were made worse by political agitators, who went about to stir up the people, in every part of the kingdom, to disaffection against the government. At this crisis, the Regent, with the advice of his ministers, resolved to apply a fifth part of his revenue, amounting to fifty thousand pounds, to the service of the state. But even this voluntary sacrifice, accompanied as it was by the most liberal acts of benevolence, at Brighton, Windsor, and in the metropolis, failed in allaying the popular excitement.

• The uneasiness produced by this perturbed state of things, threw the Queen into a fit of illness; for the relief of which, the Bath waters were recommended by the physicians in consultation. Accordingly, her Majesty went thither, accompanied by the Princess Eliza-

beth and the Duke of Clarence, with the intention of spending the winter at that fashionable place of resort, where three houses were fitted up for the accommodation of the royal visitors. They arrived at Bath in the evening of the third of November ; and the next day, the Queen and the Duke of Clarence, who was also an invalid, drank the waters, and afterwards took an airing on the Down. By this time, the city was filled with strangers, and the inhabitants naturally expected a joyful harvest. A sudden thunder-cloud however, arose, and the whole kingdom was overwhelmed with grief. On Thursday morning, after visiting the Pump-room, her Majesty received two addresses; one from the corporation of Bath, and the other from that of Bristol, inviting the royal presence in the third city of the kingdom. To this request a gracious promise was given ; and the Duke of Clarence, who introduced the deputation, expressed much satisfaction in saying, that the visit should take place in a few days.

At about four o'clock, a king's messenger arrived with letters from Lord Sidmouth, stating that the Princess Charlotte had been delivered of a still-born male child, but that her Royal Highness was doing extremely well. The news was affecting, but it was merely the shock of present disappointment, leaving behind it the prospect of better hopes. At six 'clock, the Queen and Princess Elizabeth sat down to dinner, with a small party, when another messenger arrived, bearing a despatch to General, now Sir Herbert Taylor. He retired, and, on reading the letter which announced the death of the Princess Charlotte at half-past two that morning, he desired Lady Ilchester to be called out. These circumstances so struck the Queen, that, without waiting

for information, she said, "I know what's the matter," and fainted away.

The mayor and corporation of Bath, who with so much satisfaction addressed her Majesty in the morning, had repaired to the Guildhall to dine together, with a large company of the first distinction. Before the tables were cleared, one of the royal pages brought a letter to Sir Henry Halford, by whom it was given to the Duke of Clarence, who read it with agitated feelings, rose from his seat, and departed. In a faltering tone of voice, the Marquis of Camden then proposed a suspension of the entertainment, and every individual withdrew in silence.

Meanwhile the Queen had a succession of fits during the night; but the next day she was somewhat better, and expressed a determination to return directly to Windsor. Accordingly, on Saturday morning, as early as seven o'clock, her Majesty, the Princess Elizabeth, and the Duke of Clarence, set out with heavy hearts; but did not reach the castle till six in the evening.

The day of the funeral, Tuesday the 18th of November, was one of general and unaffected mourning, not only in the metropolis, but throughout the kingdom. It was a day of voluntary humiliation, of a total cessation from business, and of sad and silent meditation on the instability of all sublunary hopes. The solemnity in St. George's Chapel, when the royal remains were consigned to the vault, was rendered peculiarly affecting by the appearance of Prince Leopold, as chief mourner, supported on either hand by the two next heirs in succession after the Regent, the Dukes of York and Clarence.

When the melancholy intelligence reached Paris, the public sympathy was strongly excited, and honourably expressed in that capital. The places of amusement were closed;

on the exchange, the ordinary course of business was suspended ; and the public journals were unanimous in the language of concern for a loss, which, as they observed, would perhaps affect, not the welfare of England alone, but the current of history, and the fate of nations, throughout the European world. The remark was just ; and our own chronicles exhibit proofs that great changes have resulted from calamities of this nature.

Thus, to name only a few instances. The death of Arthur, Prince of Wales, occasioned the abolition of the Papal supremacy, and the introduction of the Reformation into these realms :—the death of Edward the Sixth in his minority, though in itself an incalculable loss, ultimately proved beneficial, by giving permanency to the Protestant religion, and liberty to the United Provinces, and other states :—in the succeeding reign, the death of Henry, Prince of Wales, gave the crown to his brother Charles, which prepared the way for two revolutions ; one of a sanguinary, and the other of a pacific character. The restoration of the monarchy fixed the constitution ; and the abdication of James the Second secured the Protestant religion ; but the death of Mary, the consort of William the Third, without issue, produced another change :—the hopes of the people now rested upon the young Duke of Gloucester, the only surviving child of the Princess Anne of Denmark ; but here again the national hopes were blasted by the death of the prince at the age of eleven years. With Queen Anne, the line of Stuart terminated ; but the mutations of royalty did not end here. The death of Frederick Prince of Wales was followed by the war of seven years, which produced, under his son George the Third, the separation of America from the crown of Britain, and the revolution

of France. Lastly, the stroke which, by cutting off from the elder branch of the royal house of Brunswick two generations at once, left the succession in a dislocated state, and the nation with discouraging prospects.

As a proof that the present loss was one to be lamented by all who had the interests of virtue and their country at heart, the following anecdote will be sufficient.—In one of her walks with Prince Leopold, the winter before her death, the Princess addressed a decent-looking man, who was employed as a day-labourer, and said, “My friend, you appear to have seen better days.”—“I have, madam,” replied the man, “I once rented a good farm, but the change in the times has ruined me.” At this, the Princess, much affected, turned to the Prince, and said, “Let us be thankful to Providence for his blessings, and endeavour to fulfil the important duties required of us, by making our suffering fellow-creatures happy.” On their return home, her Royal Highness ordered the steward to obtain a list of all the deserving objects of charity in the neighbourhood, with their particular circumstances and families: after which, the clerk of the kitchen was appointed to distribute food daily to those which stood most in need. Instead of frivolous sports and extravagant festivities, on the birth-days of the Prince and Princess in December and January, two hundred pounds were laid out in supplying the poor with clothing. Such was the star of promise, that beamed for a short space above the horizon, and was then removed in mercy from the evil to come, and to enjoy the reward of righteousness in a better world.

CHAPTER IV.

A.D. 1817 to 1818.

AFTER the funeral of the lamented Princess, the Duke of Clarence returned to Bath with his mother and sister, for the benefit of the salubrious springs of that place, which were strongly recommended to His Royal Highness, as well as to her Majesty. The Duke had been for some years subject to periodical fits of the gout, and spasmodic affections of the stomach, for which disorders, the mineral water of Bath has always been regarded as a specific. In most cases, however, the advantage derived by the invalids, who resort to this celebrated temple of Hygæia, may be ascribed as much to the change of air, the pleasantness of the scene, and the potential operation of the fancy, as to Bladud's renovating fountain. Yet, if the afflicted find, or imagine, themselves relieved, though but for a little while, in their downward path to oblivion—who would wish to deprive them of the illusive comfort? The Spenserian stanzas of Dr. Oliver, here suspended in the pump-room, were much admired by the royal party; to whose change of circumstances, since their first visit, they were particularly appropriate :

Alwhyle ye drynke, 'mydst age and ac he ybent,
 Ah, creepe not comfortlesse beside oure streame;
 (Sweet nurse of Hope) Afflyctions downwarde sente,
 Wythe styll smalle voyce, to rouze from thriftless dreame,
 Eache wyng to prune, that shyft ythe everie sprae
 In wytlesse flyghte, and chyrrpythe lyfe awaie.

Alwhyle ye lave—such solace may be founde :

“ When kynde the hand, why ’neath its healyngge faynte ?

“ Payne shall recure the heartes corruptedde wounde ;

“ Farre gone is that whyche feelethe not its playnte :

“ By kyndrede angel smote, Bethesda gave

“ Newe vyrtues forthe, and felte her troublede wave.”

Thus drynke, thus lave—nor ever more lamente ;

Our springes but flowe, pale anguish to befrende.

How fayre the meed that followeth contente !

How bleste to lyve, and fynde such anguish mend.

How bleste to dye—when sufferynge Faithe makes sure,

At Lyfe’s high founte, an everlastyngge cure.

A few days after her return to Bath, the Queen, remembering the promise she had given to pay the ancient city of Bristol a visit, performed that engagement ; and fortunately, though it was in the middle of winter, the weather was uncommonly fine, insomuch that her Majesty was enabled to ascend the lofty hill of Clifton, and to enjoy from the Down the romantic scenery stretching along the banks of the Avon to the Severn. At Bristol the Duke of Clarence was entertained by the corporation, who presented him with the freedom of the city in a gold box. The same token of loyal affection and respect was also tendered to the illustrious visitor by the corporation of Bath.

At this time a negociation was pending for the marriage of the Princess Elizabeth and the hereditary Prince of Hesse Homburg, one of the oldest friends, and fellow-student, of the Duke of Kent. The treaty for this alliance having been brought to a conclusion, the Queen and Princess, with the Duke of Clarence, at the end of February, left Bath for Windsor, and three weeks afterwards her Majesty removed to Buckingham House, to be pre-

sent at the celebration of the nuptials. On the 7th of April, 1818, the ceremony took place; the bride being led to the altar by the Dukes of Clarence and Kent, was there given away, in the necessary absence of the Prince Regent, by the Duke of York.

It was now that the mischief of the royal marriage act became obvious in its effects upon the succession; as, from a numerous and promising offspring, there remained to the reigning monarch no legitimate descendant, either of the male or female branches.

Under these circumstances, when the nation had in prospect "a broken lineage and a doubtful throne;" it became indispensably necessary that the unmarried Princes should enter into the connubial state. The first to obey the call were the Dukes of Clarence and Cambridge; the one with the Princess of Saxe-Meinengen, and the other with the Princess of Hesse. On the 19th of April, a royal message was delivered to each house of parliament, announcing the consent of the Regent to the proposed alliances, and recommending that a suitable provision for their support should be made.

On the 15th, the Earl of Liverpool, in the house of lords, stated, that it had been the intention of ministers to propose an addition of £19,500 a year to the income of the Duke of Clarence, and of £12,000 to the Duke of Cambridge. A similar sum was to have been proposed for the Duke of Kent, in the event of his marriage. It was judged proper also to propose a grant of the same amount to the Duke of Cumberland; for the Earl said, he knew of nothing in his conduct, or that of the Duchess, which should subject them to the stigma of having no parliamentary provision, upon their marriage. The Duke of Gloucester had declined applying to parliament; but

his present income approximated that which was now proposed for the junior branches, being £28,000 a year. If the intended settlements should undergo modifications in another place, it would be for their lordships to consider them when sent up in separate bills; but he hoped the allowances would not be so reduced as to prevent the intended matrimonial alliances. The illustrious persons would, he was authorized to state, be satisfied with about half the sum that had been mentioned. The noble premier then observed, that these grants would not create any new burdens upon the people, as £10,000 a year had fallen in by the death of the Princess Charlotte, and £50,000 per annum would fall in the next year, upon the complete liquidation of the debts of the Prince Regent. His lordship concluded with moving an address, which was, as usual, an echo to the message. After the rejection of an amendment moved by Lord King, the original address was agreed to.

In the commons, the business took a very different and a most unpleasant turn. Lord Castlereagh, after a statement corresponding in substance with that of the Earl of Liverpool, proposed an additional allowance of £10,000 a year to the Duke of Clarence, and £6,000 to the junior Dukes. The grant to the Duke of Clarence was moved first; upon which it was encountered by Mr. Barclay, one of the members for Southwark, who opposed it, as he said, on account of the over-burdened state of the country. He concluded with moving, that the chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again. Mr. Holme Sumner, one of the representatives for the county of Surrey, said he would agree to a vote for £6,000, and no more, to the Duke of Clarence. Report stated, the honourable member observed, that the

Duke's debts amounted to between fifty and sixty thousand pounds. Ministers, he thought, did not act fairly in hooking the Duke of Cumberland among the others, after the house had negatived his former application. Mr. Sumner, however, highly praised the Duke of Cambridge, who had, he said, continued to sustain the character given of him, in his younger years, by his revered Father. The King, using the language of Eton school, said, "Cambridge has not committed his first fault yet." Lord Castlereagh, in reply, assured the house, that if the resolutions were agreed to, and £30,000 were granted, the Duke of Clarence, after relieving him from pressing demands, and making a provision for the ultimate extinction of his debts, would have £25,000 free and unencumbered income.

In the sequel of the discussion, Mr. Barclay withdrew his amendment, and Mr. Sumner then moved to reduce the additional grant of £6,000 to the Duke of Clarence. This motion, after a warm debate, was carried by one hundred and ninety-three, to one hundred and eighty-four votes. The result was received with loud and indecent shouts of applause; after which, Lord Castlereagh rose, and said, that since the house had thought proper to refuse the larger sum to the Duke of Clarence, he believed he might say that the negotiation for this marriage was at an end.

On the following day, the same nobleman informed the house, that he had waited on the Duke of Clarence, and apprised him of the vote of the preceding night. His Royal Highness, in reply, expressed his conviction, that with the allowance now offered, he could not maintain a proper establishment, in the event of his marriage, without the liability of running into debt; and that, under

these circumstances, he felt the necessity of declining to avail himself of the proposed allowance.

The house then resolved itself into a committee on the additional grant to the Duke of Cambridge. Mr. Brougham objected to the principle that £6,000 should be granted to the junior branches of the royal family; but if it were to be granted, why, he asked, did ministers commence with the youngest, and pass by the Dukes of Kent and Sussex, who had most worthily adopted measures to get rid of their encumbrances without laying additional burdens on the country? To the Duke of Cambridge, least of all, he thought, was such an allowance necessary. He had already £18,000 a year, besides free lodgings and a free table in a royal palace; he had also £6,000 a year in Hanover; and having always been an economist, he possessed considerable savings in our funds. But, added the orator, if the allowance be necessary to enable him to marry, let the great property of the heads of the royal house be made available for the purpose.

Lord Castlereagh protested against this line of argument, as tending to the double course of invidious reflection and unfair comparison. There was no other reason, he said, for proposing the vote to the Duke of Cambridge, but that the negotiation for his marriage had been long in train. He did not think the house should take into consideration the emoluments of the temporary situation which the Duke held in Hanover at the earnest desire of his brother.

Mr. Wilberforce did not think the proposed sum too large. But he condemned the royal marriage act, which precluded the several branches of the august family from entertaining the best feelings, and from forming connexions which would at once promote their happiness

and guarantee their virtue. It seemed to imply, that they could be rendered better political characters by being worse men, which was one of the most mistaken notions, as well as the most immoral of doctrines.

On a division, the resolution was carried by a large majority. But that for a similar grant to the Duke of Cumberland was negatived. On this last motion, Mr. Littleton, afterwards Lord Hatherton, member for Staffordshire, and a zealous oppositionist, defended the Duke of Cumberland's claim in the strongest terms. He said, the more the character of the royal personage was known, the more it would excite regard and esteem. As to the insinuations that had been thrown out against him, no assertion of their truth had ever been made; and he should be ashamed if he could be induced by any love of popularity to give credit to them for a moment.

Lord Castlereagh then proposed a dower of £6,000 to the Duchess of Cumberland, which was agreed to; but her Royal Highness declined accepting the favour. Soon after, the Duke of Clarence, upon a reconsideration of the case, and a consultation with his friends, was induced to revoke the resolution he had made, not to enter into the matrimonial state.

The correspondence with the Princess of Meiningen was in consequence resumed, and, as his Royal Highness could not take a journey to Germany, the Duchess dowager and her daughter set out for England, where they landed on the 11th of July, and on the 13th the marriage took place in the palace at Kew. The Duke of Kent and his Duchess, the sister of Prince Leopold, were at the same time re-married according to the rites of the established church. Fortunately, the Queen was so far better as to be able to be present at the double ceremonial, for which pur-

pose a temporary altar was fitted up in her Majesty's drawing-room, overlooking the gardens. At four o'clock, the whole of the party having arrived, the Queen took her seat at the right side of the altar, attended by the Prince Regent, who was followed by the other members of the royal family, and the great officers of state. The Duke of Clarence, with his bride elect, and the Duke and Duchess of Kent, who had already been married in the Lutheran form abroad, being introduced, and having taken their station at the altar, the Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by the Bishop of London, commenced the service. Both the brides were given away by the Prince Regent, after which they knelt with their illustrious partners before the Queen, who gave them her blessing; and then retired into the adjoining room, being too feeble to remain with the company. At five o'clock, the Prince Regent, the rest of his relatives and friends, sat down to a most sumptuous dinner, which lasted till seven; and about half an hour afterwards, the Duke and Duchess of Kent departed for Claremont. The Regent, and the remaining Royal party then proceeded in open carriages to the Cottage in Kew gardens, near the Pagoda, where they drank tea, after which, the Duke and Duchess of Clarence, with the Dowager of Meiningen, left the palace for the house of his Royal Highness at St. James's. The marriage of the Duke of Cambridge and the Princess of Hesse had been solemnized about five weeks before, in the presence of the Queen and the father of the bride, at Buckingham House. Soon after this ceremony, their Royal Highnesses, with the Landgrave, left England for Hanover. The Duke and Duchess of Clarence also took a final leave of the Queen in a few days after their marriage, and proceeded to the Continent, with the

intention of spending the remainder of the year in Germany.

These were painful separations to the Royal patient ; but the most distressing of all was the parting from the Princess Elizabeth, who had always been the favourite daughter of her Majesty.

This affecting scene took place at Buckingham House on the morning of the third of June, when the Prince of Hesse Homburg and his excellent consort left the metropolis for Brighton ; with the express condition, that if the shock, as might be feared, should produce any alarming effects upon the Queen, her Royal Highness was to return immediately. Happily for both parties, the apprehended danger did not occur : the mind of the venerable invalid rose superior, in the hour of trial, to the weakness of nature ; and the accounts of her Majesty's health were so far favourable, that at the end of a week, the Prince and Princess left Brighton for Dover, where they embarked, and landed at Calais, from whence they proceeded to Frankfort, by the way of Brussels.

Such was the dispersed state of the royal family at this time, when the heads of it were brought into the valley of the shadow of death—the one unconscious of what was passing around him, and the other incapable of enjoying the satisfaction of seeing the dearest object of her earthly regard, and of dying under the same roof where he was secluded. The disorder with which the Queen was afflicted admitted of no hope. The anasarca appearances, and spasmodic attacks, made it necessary that precautionary measures should be adopted for the care of the King's person, in the event of her Majesty's dissolution. Accordingly, at the close of the session,

two amendments in the regency act were passed ; one empowering the Queen to add six new members to her council ; and the other repealing the clause which required the immediate assembling of a new parliament on the demise of her Majesty. But though it was evident that the anticipated event could not be far distant, the Royal patient herself entertained, to the last, hopes of a recovery. Her thoughts were continually on the wing for Windsor ; and to gratify the desire she felt to be where the King was, various expedients were devised, but all without effect.

At the beginning of August, the Queen seemed somewhat better, and continued, for about a fortnight, to improve so much, as to excite the hope that she would recover strength enough to bear the journey upon which she was so intensely anxious. But the illusion soon vanished, and, before the end of the month, the spasmodic attacks came on again with increasing violence, each fit leaving the Royal sufferer in a state of exhaustion and debility. This warfare in the system, between a constitution naturally excellent, and a complication of ailments springing from one diseased organ, went on until the end of September, when the malady once more abated, through the skill of the medical attendants ; and her Majesty was again enabled to bear being wheeled in her chair from one room to the other, where she received a few select friends. The arrival of General Campbell with letters from the Princess of Homburg, contributed much to this temporary recovery ; which, however, was of very short duration. On the evening of the 19th of October, the spasms were frequent, and one of the physicians gave it as his decided opinion, that death would close the scene in a fortnight. Though the

prediction was not exactly fulfilled, yet on the fifth of November, the fits of coughing were so severe, that every person in attendance expected each paroxysm would be the last. In this pitiable state, the aged and worn-out patient continued till the sixteenth, when certain appearances of mortification indicated the fatal crisis to be at hand. Her Majesty received the tidings without any emotion; and after pausing a few moments, she dictated her will to Sir Herbert Taylor, with as much precision and composure as if she had been in perfect health, or was about to take an excursion into the country.

The same placidity continued to the last, and providentially she was not only free from pain, but in the entire possession of her mental faculties, when the Prince Regent and the Duke of York, who had been sent for by express, reached Kew on the seventeenth at noon. On their arrival, they went, accompanied by the Princess Augusta and the Duchess of Gloucester, into the dying chamber; where they were instantly recognized by the Queen, who smiled upon them all, and, while holding the hand of the Regent, closed her eyes in

a death-like sleep;

A gentle wafting to immortal life.

Thus died this exemplary model of public and private virtue, in the seventy-fifth year of her age, and the fifty-eighth of her residence in England.

On Tuesday, the first of December, the ceremony of lying in state, as it is called, took place, though on a contracted scale; and the next day the royal obsequies were solemnized at Windsor, the Regent attending as chief mourner, supported by the Dukes of York and Sussex. Throughout the awful ceremony, all eyes were fixed upon the Prince, who was evidently absorbed in

grief. He was long known to have been the favourite son of his mother ; and this was the occasion, when, as might be expected, filial piety would appear in the outward traits of affectionate sorrow. Besides, the paternal concern of the Prince for the loss which he had just sustained, must have been heightened by the remembrance, that in the vault, now disclosed to his view, were deposited the remains of his only child, who, had Providence permitted, would after himself have succeeded to the throne. But amidst the pomp and pageantry of regal grandeur, what was there in the crown worth contemplating with pleasure, by a man far in the decline of life, isolated and childless ? The world to the Regent was now become a blank ; and the prospect that lay before him, exhibited only shadows of further changes, more likely to depress than to console the mind under its present bereavement.

With respect to the departed Queen, it is barely just to say, that her life, extended, as it had been, beyond the common bound of mortality, was irreproachable. Yet such is the tax levied upon greatness, that even the character of this illustrious personage, not more exalted in rank than in moral worth, was not suffered to escape the persecution of malignant tongues. By some she was accused of exercising an undue and injurious influence over the mind of the King, in matters of government. Every person, however, that had any acquaintance with the court of George the Third, and especially with his personal disposition, treated this aspersion with the contempt due to a romantic and despicable fiction. Another imputation cast upon the Queen obtained more credence ; and to those who had no means of knowing better, it had the appearance of being founded on truth. Owing to the private and economical mode of life, early

adopted and constantly pursued in the royal household, the report spread, that the Queen was not only parsimonious, but extremely avaricious. Libellers of all sorts made the most of this calumny, and founded upon it numerous slanderous tales, to the disparagement of their Majesties. Death made public, what the humility of a long life had carefully concealed. After the interment of the Queen, it was proved, that, so far from being greedy of gain, and uncharitable to the poor, her income was always inadequate to the bounties she bestowed upon private individuals and public institutions. Her annual benefactions in pensions and subscriptions exceeded five thousand pounds; but even that sum fell short of what her Majesty gave away occasionally to distressed objects, and in aid of meritorious designs. To one female institution alone, in the course of her life, she gave twenty-five thousand pounds.

Among the many other anecdotes that might be related of her Majesty's benevolence, the following merits particular notice, as an instance of charity connected with prudence. A female, unknown to the Queen, one day presented a petition at Windsor. The memorial stated that the applicant was the widow of an officer, left with twelve children totally unprovided for. The Queen made inquiries, and, the result being satisfactory, she took all the orphans under her own protection. Some time afterwards, the lady married a person in affluent circumstances; upon being made acquainted with which, her Majesty, very properly, sent back the children, that her bounty might be transferred to other objects.

CHAPTER V.

A. D. 1818 to 1819.

It is necessary now to follow the Duke of Clarence and his consort to Hanover, where they spent the winter of 1818, and the spring of the following year.

As the present memoir would be defective without some account of the Family to which his Royal Highness was now allied, we shall therefore devote a chapter to that interesting subject.

In the sixteenth century, the three successive electors of Saxony, Frederic the Wise, John the Constant, and John Frederic the Magnanimous, all embraced the Lutheran religion, for which they suffered much in their persons and estates; but particularly the last mentioned Prince, who was deposed by the arbitrary decree of the Germanic council. After his death, John, his son, was prevailed upon by a desperate adventurer, of the name of Grumbach, to attempt the recovery of his hereditary dominions. The effort failed, and the unfortunate Prince was thrown into prison, where he died in 1595, after a confinement of twenty-eight years. In the mean time, the duchies of Gotha and Weimar were vested in his younger brother, John William. He was succeeded by his son, the Duke John, of whose ten sons, two acquired renown in the history of the seventeenth century.

One of them was Bernard, Duke of Weimar, who joined the heroic Gustavus Adolphus, and was with him

when he fell at the battle of Lutzen ; after which, the duke assumed the command of the allied German and Swedish army. Providence favoured all the undertakings of Bernard. Among other achievements, he conquered the Brisgau, the oldest possession of the house of Hapsburg ; and he would have added the whole of that valuable district to his national domain, but for the intrigues of Cardinal Richelieu, who endeavoured to draw him aside, by proposing a marriage between the Saxon prince and the Duchess d'Aiguillon. The scheme was frustrated, by Bernard's rejection of the offer ; and shortly after, in 1639, he died, not without suspicion of poison.

One of his elder brothers was Ernest the First, Duke of Gotha and Altenberg, commonly and deservedly called the Pious. He likewise joined Gustavus Adolphus in the memorable enterprise for the deliverance of Germany. At the battle of Lutzen, he sustained the shock of the fresh forces brought up by the fierce Pappenheim, and repulsed them, with the loss of their commander. Soon after, at the request of his brother Bernard, he quitted the army, and devoted himself to the healing of the wounds of his country, and to the repair of its ruins. The miseries which the war of thirty years had brought upon Germany, surpasses all power of language to describe. Ernest became in every respect the father of his people. He encouraged and assisted, to the utmost of his power, in the rebuilding of private habitations and public edifices, the revival of agriculture, the improvement of roads, the construction of canals, the embanking of rivers, and the advancement of industry in general. He also gave a beneficent constitution to his estates ; and he re-organized the system of administration. He founded or restored schools and colleges for all ranks ; and for the

poor he established hospitals, and alms-houses with schools for orphans. He was careful to procure pious and liberal clergymen for the towns and villages. He laboured to allay differences and disputes of all kinds ; for which purpose, and to promote evangelical charity, he employed powerful means to circulate the Bible among the people. He took likewise a lively interest in all those plans that were formed to extend the knowledge of the gospel in heathen and unenlightened nations. For the education of his own children, he was careful to adopt the best practical means, without having recourse to new and untried theories. Above all, his personal character in the virtues of public and private life, was a consistent and uniform illustration of Christian precepts.

Well, therefore, did this truly great prince merit the title which, by common consent, he bore, of Ernest the Pious. He died at the age of seventy-four, in 1675. He was the founder of the New or United House of Gotha. It was his wish to preserve the unity of his dominions, but his plan for that object could not be carried into effect ; and shortly after his death, the domain was divided among his seven sons. Hence arose the seven subdivisions of this branch of the Ernestine line of the ancient electoral house of Saxony, the families of Gotha, Cobourg, Meiningen, Romhild, Eisenberg, Hildburghausen, and Saalfeld. The four last have since, by the default of heirs male, or by marriages and treaties, been incorporated into the three preceding duchies. The third of the above mentioned seven sons was Bernard, who received, as his appanage, the ducal principality of Saxe Meiningen ; to which, by the death of his brother Albert in 1699, he also obtained some additional territory. He died in 1706, and the inheritance

passed to his three sons, who reigned in conjunction. The survivor was Anthony Ulric, who died in 1763, when the succession and political administration were vested in his two sons, Augustus Frederick Charles, and George Frederick Charles, but not without opposition; the history of which is too curious and remarkable to be omitted.

Duke Anthony Ulric married first, Philippine Cæsar; but she being the daughter of a tradesman, the children by her were, in 1747, decreed, in a diet of the empire, incapable of succeeding to the title and estates of Meiningen, as being, on the maternal side, of ignoble blood. On the death of the first duchess, the duke married a princess of the house of Hesse Philipstadt, by whom he had male issue as just stated, and some daughters. Anthony, some time before his death, made a will, by which he constituted four of his sons, two of the first, and two of the second alliance, universal heirs of the duchy, as well as of all the other fiefs, titles, and pretensions whatever. This will being contrary to the decree of the empire, the Dukes of Saxe Gotha, Cobourg, and Hildburghausen, united to set it aside by force. They also pretended, that, as nearest in relation, they had a right to the guardianship of the children by the second marriage. The confederate dukes then sent deputies to Meiningen, with a body of troops, who, as soon as they came near the city, demanded admittance, and were refused. On this, they summoned the place to surrender, and received the same answer. The weather being very bad, Colonel Seltzer, who commanded this force, took possession of an ale-house outside the walls, and quartered his men, as well as he could, in and about the premises; but they had scarcely entered, when a terrible fire from the ram-

parts dislodged them with the loss of some lives. The affair having thus become serious, the Aulic council assembled, on an application from the Duchess dowager of Saxe Meiningen, complaining of the treatment she had experienced from her relatives, and claiming the Imperial protection. Meanwhile, the troops of the three princes ravaged the country, and, having effected an entry into the city, disarmed the inhabitants, and committed scandalous outrages.

The duchess again demanded succour from the emperor ; and, in consequence, a new rescript was addressed to the combined dukes, commanding them to withdraw their troops from Meiningen, and to make satisfaction for the injuries they had committed, and the damages that had been sustained by the people of that territory. At the same time, a rescript was sent to the other princes of the circles of Franconia and Saxony, enjoining them, without delay, to put the Imperial decree into execution ; to take the duchess dowager, her children, and subjects, under their protection ; and immediately to adopt measures for the re-establishment of peace and tranquillity. The dukes of Gotha, Cobourg, and Hildburghausen were further cited to appear before the Imperial tribunal within two months, to answer for their infraction of the public peace, and to receive judgment as to the pecuniary compensation to be made to the Duchess of Meiningen and her family. The emperor in the same mandate declared, that the duchess dowager was sole guardian of her children by the late Duke Anthony Ulric, and also regent of the estates during the minority of the elder prince. In order to set at rest any claim that the children of the first duchess might be disposed to advance, on the ground of priority, and their father's will, it was

determined that Bernard Ernest, the eldest son of that marriage, had no right to bear the name, title, arms, and seal of Saxony, but that he and his brother should be acknowledged as princes of the empire only.

Thus ended this extraordinary contest, which affords a striking picture of the pride of birth, and of the jealousy with which the families of Germany watched over the purity of ancestral blood, lest it should be contaminated by plebeian mixture. Here it merits observation, by the way, that at no period of the English history, till the reign of George the Third, can we trace any thing like this haughty and forbidding spirit. Even Henry the Eighth never thought of setting aside Elizabeth on the ground that her mother was the daughter of commoners; and the licentious Charles the Second obliged his brother to acknowledge Anne Hyde as his wife, saying, in allusion to the lady's origin—that as James had brewed, so he must bake.

But to return to the Meiningen family. In 1782, Augustus Frederick Charles, the eldest son of Anthony Ulric by his second duchess, died without issue; upon which, the succession remained with his brother George, who was born in 1761, and married Louisa Eleonora, daughter of Christian Albert Lewis, Prince of Hohenlohe Langenberg; by whom he had three children: 1. ADELAIDE LOUISA THERESA CAROLINE AMELIA, the Queen Dowager of Great Britain, born on the 13th of August, 1792; 2. Ida, born in 1794, and married, in 1816, to Bernard, son of the archduke Charles Augustus of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, by whom she has issue. 3. Bernard Henry, the reigning duke of Saxe Meiningen, born in 1800, and married in 1825 to Mary, the daughter of Prince William of Hesse Cassel. George Frederick Charles,

duke of Meiningen, died on the 24th of December, 1803, at the age of forty-two; and, by his last will, left the guardianship of his children, and the administration of his estates, to the duchess dowager as regent.

Under this excellent and accomplished woman, the children were educated in great retirement, and with a strict regard to their morals, and improvement in every branch of polite and useful learning. From earliest childhood, the princess Adelaide, in particular, was remarkable for her sedate disposition, and rather reserved habits. The greatest portion of her time, it is said, was devoted to her studies; and though perfectly cheerful with her intimate companions, she took little pleasure in the gaieties and frivolities of fashion. Even when arrived at more matured years, she manifested a strong dislike to that laxity of morals, and contempt for religious feeling, which had sprung out of the French revolution, and infected almost all the courts in Germany. That of Meiningen, fortunately, by its seclusion and apparent insignificance, but, above all, by the prudent management of the dowager regent, escaped, like an oasis in the arid desert, the visitation of the troublers of the earth. Napoleon, it seems, did not think it worth his while to bestow his attention upon so trivial a spot as Meiningen; and thus the regent duchess was left in undisturbed possession of her authority, and the tranquil enjoyment of domestic comfort; while the larger states became exposed to a train of evils, of which atheism and immorality were not the least. Thus favoured by Providence, the little court of Meiningen was distinguished by its purity of principles, and its two princesses were objects of admiration by their exemplary conduct. Their chief delight was in establishing and superintending schools

for the education of the lower classes of the community, and in providing food and raiment for the aged, helpless, and destitute.

The Princess Adelaide, in particular, was the life of every institution, that had for its object the happiness of her fellow-creatures. It has been said, and evidently on good authority, that the late Queen Charlotte had long kept her eye upon this virtuous family, with a view to the union of the elder princess with one of her Majesty's sons; and that, when the Duke of Cambridge had chosen a partner for himself, she strongly recommended Adelaide of Meiningen to the Duke of Clarence.

At the beginning of the next year, the agreeable intelligence arrived, that the Duchess of Cambridge and the Duchess of Clarence were in such a state, as gave the most desirable prospect to the house of Brunswick. On the 26th of March, the former was delivered of a son at Hanover, much to the joy of the family, and of the inhabitants. On the day following, the Duchess of Clarence was taken in labour, at the same place, and gave birth to a daughter. The infant prince lived, and received the name of George; but the Duke of Clarence was not so fortunate in regard to his first-born. The young princess being only a seven-months' child, survived but a few hours; after being baptized, according to the rites of the church of England, by the names of Charlotte-Augusta-Louisa.

This misfortune was occasioned by a cold, which the Duchess caught in promenading the palace gardens, and which ended in a severe pleuritic attack, that rendered copious bleeding necessary, and brought on a premature delivery. The royal bud of an illustrious stock was interred very privately the next day, in the same vault

which contained the remains of the great elector, Ernest Augustus, and his son, George the First, king of England.

The recovery of the Duchess was for some time exceedingly doubtful, but at length she was pronounced out of danger, and was then advised by the physicians to travel for the perfect re-establishment of her health.

Accordingly, at the end of April, her Royal Highness left Hanover for Meiningen, taking Gottingen and Hesse Philipstahl by the way, where the Duchess had some intimate friends and near relatives. Nothing could surpass the joy of the good people of Saxony, in again beholding their beloved princess. For many miles round, they collected at the frontier, to welcome the royal pair, whom they conducted in triumph to the capital of the duchy, where fête succeeded fête, and all was holiday for the space of a month.

The extent of the territory of Meiningen is about six hundred and eighty square English miles, and the population one hundred and forty thousand; that is, a little larger than the county of Hertford. The people of the entire country are supported by agriculture, a few simple manufactures, and their mutual trade. Of course, there are not, what may be called, many wealthy families, in such a confined district. They are governed according to the constitution of Ernest the Pious, and have an elective house of representatives, the members of which are chosen for six years.

Meiningen, the capital, contains nearly five thousand inhabitants. It is called proverbially the city of the Harp from a natural phenomenon in the vicinity. On a mountain ridge is a cavern, from which, when the wind is favourable, issue sounds more beautiful and powerful than those of the ancient æolian harp. The town is hand-

some, and completely embosomed in green sylvan hills, along the right bank of the river Werra. The suburbs are richly planted, and sprinkled with numerous white summer-houses.

From the castle, the court removed, at the end of a month, to the baths of Liebenstein, where the Duchess dowager has a delightful villa in the Italian style. The mineral waters here are in much request for their restorative qualities ; and, in the opinion of Dr. Beattie, from whose entertaining travels the above sketch is taken, the springs of Liebenstein may rival those of the far-famed waters of Pyrmont. At a short distance from the baths, and approached by a beautiful serpentine walk through the wood, is a singular congeries of rocks, piled and distributed in such a manner, as more to resemble the work of art than the sport of nature. They rise from an arena of about fifty yards in circumference, and have the appearance of the successive stages of an amphitheatre. At the top, the tall lindens with which the space is encircled, so intermingle their branches, as to form a sylvan canopy over the whole enclosure. This secluded romantic spot forms a delightful retreat in the heat of summer. The author, whom we have just quoted, thinks it might have been a place of meeting for some of those secret confederacies in ancient times, whose power made even emperors tremble, and from whose vengeance neither fortress nor sanctuary afforded a security. Now, however, it is devoted to much more laudable purposes, being the sacred rendezvous of lovers and nightingales ; where a stranger, if cautious and discreet, may listen to the songs or the sorrows of both, without disturbing either. From this point there is a delightful walk along the heights back

to the baths, every where shaded with luxuriant woods, and odoriferous plants and flowers, with which the whole country abounds. At proper distances, seats are placed for the accommodation of the passenger, each opening to charming vistas, and presenting a beautiful variety of picturesque scenery. Immediately beneath this elevation, is the principality of Barchfeldt, a family nearly allied to that of Meiningen, and illustrious for the patriotism and high military character of its princes.

From the mineral waters, and other indications, it is evident that beneath the surface of the earth, in this part, there lie immense riches, which, elsewhere, would stimulate the spirit of enterprise to great exertions and profitable returns. Coal, it is said, might be had for the mere working : but to that fuel the people of the country inherit from their ancestors a rooted aversion. Nothing is used for culinary or other purposes, but wood ; with rafts of which, therefore, the river is continually covered. As every householder has an allotted portion of the adjacent forest for his use ; if the population shall increase, the consumption of wood must in time clear the country of timber, and thus compel the people to lay aside their prejudices against the use of what nature has provided.

The virtues of the Liebenstein waters, the presence of objects endeared by the recollections of early days, and the fond attentions of beloved relations, had the happiest effect upon the Duchess of Clarence ; so that her health being now renovated, she very cheerfully consented to return to England. This was at the end of the summer, but it was not till the middle of October that the preparations for the journey were completed ; and then the roads had become very bad for travelling.

Her Royal Highness, however, knowing the Duke's anxiety to be at home, persevered with uncommon resolution, and, after suffering considerable fatigue, reached Dunkirk, where she miscarried, and was again taken seriously ill. The Royal Sovereign yacht was sent over immediately on the notice of the arrival of the Duke and Duchess at that port; but the removal of her Royal Highness was delayed some days, in consequence of the injury she had sustained, and then it was only at her own urgent importunity that the embarkation took place. The passage was quick, but rough; and, on landing at Dover, the Duchess found herself too weak to bear a journey to London, even by short and easy stages. Under these circumstances, and at the recommendation of the physicians, the royal invalid accepted the invitation of the Earl of Liverpool, to take up her residence at Walmer Castle. In about six weeks, she recovered sufficiently to leave the coast; and, with the Duke, who never left her, proceeded to Clarence House, St. James's, to spend the winter—Bushy being then under a thorough repair.

As soon, however, as that house became tenable, her Royal Highness removed thither, to enjoy that tranquillity, and freedom from fashionable life, which constituted her principal delight. The Duke participated in this taste and sentiment; besides which, he wished to superintend the improvements that were then going on at his favourite residence in person, and with that strict regard to economy which his circumstances rendered necessary.

CHAPTER VI.

A. D. 1819 TO 1820.

THE family circle of the Duke of Clarence was now agreeably enlarged, by the return of the eldest of his Royal Highness's sons from India, whither, as before observed, he had been expatriated with his brother, on account of their concern in the prosecution of Colonel Quentin. It so happened, however, that this exile proved ultimately advantageous to science, and highly honourable to George Fitzclarence, afterwards Earl of Munster. On his arrival in Bengal, he was immediately appointed one of the aides-de-camp to the Marquis of Hastings, the governor-general, by whom he was employed as well in all affairs of the cabinet as of the field; particularly in the dispersion of the Pindarries, and in the breaking up of the Mahratta confederacy.

The Marquis having accomplished these great services, deemed it expedient to despatch the intelligence home to the Company, by an overland mission. Major Fitz-Clarence was selected for this purpose; and, on the 8th of December, 1817, before the break of day, he left the camp at Sejapore, in the province of Bundelcund, and, on the third of February, 1818, he arrived at Bombay. Though the route was extremely critical and perilous, being for the greatest part through countries where a marked hostility to Europeans predominated,

the Major, with an insatiate spirit of inquiry, examined every remarkable object that came in his way, regardless of the danger which attended his curiosity. 'On the seventh of February, the Major sailed from Bombay in one of the Company's ships ; and on the twenty-sixth of the following month, he landed at Coseir in the Red Sea, from whence he set out the same day for Khennè on the Nile, in order to proceed down that river to Cairo.

At Khennè he was entertained by a gentleman named Anderson, who, though of British parentage, knew not a word of the English language. After a tedious passage of ten days, the Major reached the house of Mr. Salt at Cairo, where he met with the celebrated adventurer and traveller, Belzoni. In the company of Mr. Salt and Belzoni, Major Fitzclarence made a visit to the pyramids ; among which, he entered and minutely explored the famous one of Cephrenes. In his journal, our indefatigable observer gives this account of a sarcophagus of granite, buried in the ground to the level of the floor, and placed due north and south : " The sarcophagus is eight feet long, three feet six inches wide, and two feet three inches deep inside, surrounded by large blocks of granite, placed there in all probability to prevent its removal ; but Belzoni had determined upon that measure, though it must be attended with much labour. The lid is placed diagonally across it : Belzoni, however, found in it the bones of a human skeleton, which are probably the bones of King Cephrenes, who is supposed to have built this pyramid. He presented me with three or four pieces, and, on learning it was my intention to deposit them in the British Museum, he added others, making in all seven pieces."

The sequel of this discovery is too laughable to be passed over without notice. We shall therefore, without apology, complete the history of the supposed bones of the king of Egypt, in the words of Mr. Faber, who had long before, with great learning, supported the opinion, that the pyramids were erected in honour of the sacred bull Mneuis, worshipped by the ancient Egyptians as the visible representative of Osiris.

“On the 18th of March, in the year 1818,” says Mr. Faber, “the long-closed pyramid of Cephrenes was opened by the skill and perseverance of Mr. Belzoni. Like the large pyramid, it was found to contain a dark chamber and a stone sarcophagus ; but the sarcophagus, instead of being empty, was occupied by a few bones. These bones, according to the vulgar notion that each pyramid is a literal tomb of a literal Egyptian sovereign, were, naturally enough, supposed by Mr. Belzoni to be human ; and the question was now thought to be determined in favour of the old opinion handed down to us by the Greek writers. Soon after the opening of the pyramid, however, it was entered by Major Fitzclarence, who sacrilegiously brought away with him a portion of the supposed venerable remains of the primeval Cephrenes. So royal a fragment of the mighty dead could befit none save a royal cabinet. The august bone was reverently presented to the Prince Regent ; and the Prince committed the relic of his defunct brother sovereign, big with the fate of jarring systems, to the inspection of Sir Everard Home. Not more fatal to the antique shield of the renowned Dr. Cornelius, was the impious scouring of the cleanly housemaid—a scouring which converted the ærugo-stripped buckler into a sconce—than the inspection of an accomplished English surgeon proved

to the thigh-bone of Cephrenes. The relic turned out to be, not the bone of a *man*, but the bone of a *cow*!" In further illustration of this curious and recondite subject, Mr. Faber remarks :

"It was one of those bestial avatars of Osiris, (to adopt the technical language of the kindred theology of Hindoostan,) that was committed after his death to the dark sepulchral chamber of the pyramid ascribed to Cephrenes. The bone brought home by Major Fitzclarence, and at first mistaken for the thigh-bone of an Egyptian king, was evidently a bone of the sacred bull Mneuis: the sarcophagus, that contained this curious and decisive remnant of the animal's skeleton, was the ship Argo, executed in stone, (by the Greeks denominated the stone ship of Dionusus,) which was at once the ark and the reputed coffin of Osiris; and the pyramid itself, like the pyramid of Babylon, the pyramid of the Mexican Cholula, and the numerous pyramids dedicated to Buddha, was an artificial copy of the mount of the appulse, Ararat.

"The same remarks apply to the larger pyramid of Cheops, the interior of which has long been accessible. There the stone Argo is empty; but when we consider the length of time during which the pyramid has been open, it is not very difficult to account for the disappearance of its contents. In the course of a few years, the Argo of the pyramid opened by Mr. Belzoni will be as empty as its fellow: the example of Major Fitzclarence will soon, no doubt, be followed by succeeding travellers; and the bones of the holy bull will all find their way to the cabinets of Europe."

On the 12th of April, the Major quitted Cairo for Alexandria, where he embarked on board the Tagus

frigate, Captain Dundas, and there, to his great satisfaction, found his brother, Adolphus Fitzclarence, then a lieutenant on board of that ship. The Tagus had been despatched to Alexandria, for the purpose of conveying home the two sons of the Emperor of Morocco, who had been on pilgrimage to Mecca. This occurrence added greatly to the stock of knowledge which the Major had acquired; for, in the suite of the princes was a man of considerable intelligence, and of a most communicative disposition, from whom was obtained much information respecting the internal geography of Africa, particularly on the two interesting objects of inquiry—the course of the Niger, and the site of Timbuctoo. The Major asked this person, whose name was Hadjee Talub, and whose situation, as governor of the princes, entitled him to credit—whether it was practicable for a Frank to pass from Fez to Timbuctoo, and if he thought the Emperor of Morocco would assist the views of any Englishman in reaching that city. He answered with the greatest confidence in the affirmative. Hadjee was further asked, whether, if duly rewarded, he would accompany the Major to Timbuctoo; to which he assented with the utmost readiness, and added, that they could reach that city from Fez in forty-seven days on horseback, and that he would forfeit his life if he did not bring the Major back safely.

On his arrival at Gibraltar, Major Fitzclarence embarked on board a packet, and on the fourteenth of June, 1818, he landed at Falmouth, just in time to congratulate his illustrious parent on his marriage. An advancement to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel followed, and, on the recommendation of his friends, he sent to the press his admirably written and highly valuable “*Journal of a Route across India, through Egypt to England.*”

This elegant volume, which came out, the ensuing year, under the auspices of the Prince Regent, contains not only a variety of descriptive sketches, interesting researches and ingenious disquisitions, but many lively and instructive delineations of remarkable characters.

Among other natives of distinction, with whom the author became acquainted in India, was one who, by his recent visit to this country, has obtained considerable attention. Of this personage, the Major in his journal gives the following account :

“ There has never been, to my knowledge, an instance of any Hindoo of condition or caste being converted to our faith. The only conversion of any kind, if it can be called so, that has come within my observation, was that of a high-caste Bramin, of one of the first families in the country, who is not only perfectly master of the Sanscrit, but has gained a thorough acquaintance with the English language and literature, and has openly declared that the Braminical religion is in its purity a pure deism, and not the gross polytheism into which it has degenerated. I became well acquainted with him; and admire his talents and acquirements. His eloquence in our language is very great, and I am told that he is still more admirable in Arabic and Persian. It is remarkable that he has studied and thoroughly understands the politics of Europe, but more particularly those of England; and the last time I was in his company, he argued forcibly against a standing army in a free country, and quoted all the arguments brought forward by the members of the opposition. I think he is, in many respects, a most extraordinary person. In the first place, he is a religious reformer, who has, amongst a people more bigoted than those of Europe in the middle ages, dared to think for himself.

His learning is most extensive, as he is not only generally conversant with the best books in English, Arabic, Persian, Sanscrit, Bengalee, and Hindoostanee, but has even studied rhetoric in Arabic and English, and quotes Locke and Bacon on all occasions. From the view he has thus necessarily taken of the religions, manners, and customs of so many nations, and from his having observed the number of different modes of addressing and worshipping the Supreme Being, he naturally turned to his own faith with an unprejudiced mind, found it perverted from the religion of the Vedas to a gross idolatry, and was not afraid, though aware of the consequences, to publish to the world, in Bengalee and English, his feelings and opinions on the subject. Of course he was fully prepared to meet the host of interested enemies, who, from sordid motives, wished to keep the lower classes in the state of the darkest ignorance. I have understood that his family have quitted him, that he has been declared to have lost caste, and is, for the present, as all religious reformers must be for a time, a mark to be scoffed at. To a man of his sentiments and rank, this loss of caste must be peculiarly painful: but at Calcutta he associates with the English. He is, however, cut off from all familiar and domestic intercourse, indeed from all communication of any kind with his relations and former friends. His name is Ram Mohun Roy. He is particularly handsome, not of a very dark complexion, of a fine person, and most courtly manners. He professes to have no objection to eat and live as we do; but refrains from it, in order not to expose himself to the imputation of having changed his religion for the good things of this world. He will sit at table with us while the meat is on it, which no other Bramin will do."

CHAPTER VII.

A. D. 1820.

HERE it is proper to bring under review some historical particulars of other branches of the Royal Family at this important period.

On the meeting of the new parliament in January 1819, Lord Liverpool introduced a bill for placing the custody of the King in the hands of the Duke of York, subject, as in the case of the Queen, to the advice of a council. To this appointment, no objection was or could be made ; but when it was proposed that his Royal Highness should have a grant of ten thousand pounds a year as long as he held this important charge, a violent opposition arose, which was reverberated from the people out of doors in language of the most inflammatory tendency. Notwithstanding this, the proposition was carried through the Commons, and received the royal assent.

The Duke of York had scarcely entered upon his office, when he experienced in the discharge of it a remarkable accident. While in attendance upon his Majesty at Windsor, as the Duke was in the act of opening a door, his foot slipped, and, in the fall, he broke his right arm above the elbow. The fracture was set immediately by the surgeon of the household, and, in a short time, his Royal Highness recovered.

On the 25th of April, the Duke and Duchess of Kent arrived in England from Germany, and took up their

residence at the palace of Kensington ; where, on the 24th of May, her Royal Highness gave birth to a princess. The christening was solemnized with splendid ceremony, on Thursday, the 24th of June. The royal gold font was removed from the Tower to Kensington, and fitted up in the grand saloon, with crimson velvet coverings from the Chapel Royal. The ceremony was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, with the assistance of the Bishop of London. This future Queen was named Alexandrina Victoria. The sponsors were the Prince Regent ; the Emperor Alexander, represented by the Duke of York ; the Queen Dowager of Wurtemberg, represented by the Princess Augusta ; and the Duchess dowager of Coburg, represented by the Duchess of Gloucester. The Prince Regent, and nearly all the members of the Royal Family, were present, either during the ceremony, or at the dinner given by the Duke of Kent in the evening.

Another addition to the royal lineage took place at this period, in the birth of Prince George, son of the Duke of Cumberland ; which event occurred on the 27th of May at Berlin.

But while fresh shoots were thus budding forth to perpetuate an illustrious dynasty, death was preparing new breaches in the family.

After the delivery of the Duchess of Kent, her health, and that of the royal infant, rendered, in the judgment of the physicians, a change of scene and climate necessary. Sidmouth, on the south coast of Devonshire, was pitched upon ; and thither the Duke with his family repaired in the course of the summer. The effects were such as had been anticipated ; the Duchess recovered rapidly, and the child improved in an equal degree. The

Duke himself was delighted with the country, and still more so on account of the benefit its salubrious atmosphere had produced on the dearest objects of his affections.

But amidst this felicity, and while enjoying a high and deserved share of popularity, this excellent prince was seized with a fever, the consequence of neglecting to take off his wet boots, on returning home after a long walk in the depth of winter. The complaint began with a shivering, which soon exhibited symptoms of inflammation of the lungs. The next morning his Royal Highness was reported to be in imminent danger ; but about the middle of the day, he appeared somewhat better, after having had a little refreshing sleep. Towards evening, however, the alarming symptoms returned with increased violence, and continued so during the whole of the night, and the day following. On Saturday morning there appeared a remission of suffering ; but this was only the fearful prelude to the fatal stroke, which deprived the nation of one of its best hopes, on Sunday, January the 23d, 1820.

The royal Duke bore his illness and afflictions with the greatest composure and resignation. His amiable consort was most indefatigable in her attentions, and performed all the offices of a nurse with the most tender and affectionate anxiety. She did not even take off her clothes for five successive nights ; and all the medicines were ministered with her own hand.

Thus died Edward Augustus, Duke of Kent, in the fifty-third year of his age, having been born November the second, 1767. He was first educated under Dr. John Fisher, late Bishop of Salisbury, who was afterwards the tutor of the Princess Charlotte ; but at the age of seventeen, his Royal Highness was sent to Hanover with

General Budé, a native of Switzerland, and high in the estimation of George the Third. While in Germany, he was subjected to all the strictness of the Prussian discipline : and of its severity, as well as of his own conformity to military rules, he used to relate an anecdote, which we shall give in his own words. " Being placed as a cadet at Hanover, the regiment on duty was discharged in the usual form ; but the general commanding, happened to forget to dismiss me, which was always accompanied with a distinct and peculiar ceremony. On this, I continued, in a very uneasy position, and was actually forgotten for four hours, when at length the commanding officer rode up, and apologized. I should have remained, but for this, at my post, until I had fainted with fatigue."

This rigid tuition had a bad effect upon the royal Duke, who became, in consequence, so severe a disciplinarian himself, that when he obtained the command over British soldiers, his conduct made him enemies, and produced mutiny oftener than once. From Hanover, Prince Edward was removed to Geneva ; and there remained, to complete his education, till the month of January, 1790, when he returned to England without parental permission, and, in consequence, was sent off to Gibraltar. His stay there was short ; for, in 1791, he was ordered to Canada, from whence, on the breaking out of the war, he proceeded to the West Indies to join Sir Charles Grey, under whom he displayed great gallantry, in the attack on St. Lucie, and also in the capture of Guadaloupe and Martinique. At the close of the campaign in 1794, the Prince returned to British America, and served as a major-general at Halifax till 1798, when, in consequence of a fall from his horse, he left

that station for England. In April following, having attained his thirty-second year, he was created Duke of Kent ; to support which dignity, the annual allowance of £12,000 was appropriated by parliament. About the same time, he was promoted to the rank of General of the army, and appointed commander-in-chief in North America, to which destination he proceeded in July ; but ill health again soon obliged him to return, and he arrived in England in the autumn of 1800. In May, 1802, the Duke went to Gibraltar, as governor of that important fortress ; but this proved an untoward event, and, after the lapse of a few months, his Royal Highness was recalled, never more to be re-instated in actual service. And here historical truth requires the completion of the narrative, unpleasant as it may be in some points.

One of the warmest friends and admirers of the Duke, speaking of his Royal Highness at this period, says, "Being now possessed of the supreme command, he determined to introduce all the rigour of the German tactics. A striking example of military obedience in his own person, he required the most complete subordination from all around him. Rising before the sun—abhorring the excesses of the table—sober almost to a fault—punctual in the discharge of all his duties, however numerous—he exacted nothing from others, but what he himself was ready to comply with. Yet it was found utterly impossible for any body of men, particularly of soldiers, to imitate the abstemiousness, the regularity, and the austere habits, of the new governor.

"On the continent, he had imbibed a taste for the most correct uniformity in the dress, accoutrements, and equipments of the soldiery ; and, while the hair was to be cut according to a certain precise standard, the gar-

rison rather felt disgusted by additional parades and daily reviews. But, on the other hand, it should be recollected, that the inhabitants of the Rock had been loud in their complaints of military license; that the troops were slovenly and insubordinate; and that, as the means of intoxication were so easy, its effects became every where visible. To correct this evil, his Royal Highness, notwithstanding the loss accruing to himself, determined to shut up many of the wine-houses, to restrain the soldiers within the barracks, and to adopt such a system of inspection, as should preclude inebriety and insubordination. These regulations, however necessary, were not attended with the salutary effects that might have been expected. At the end of the year, a mutinous conspiracy, which had the assassination of the governor for its object, was formed; but providentially a timely discovery took place, and order was restored. Such a spirit, however, had been raised in the garrison, that it was deemed prudent to recall the Duke, who returned in May, 1803; and, though he continued to hold the office till his death, he never again visited the Rock."

It is barely just to observe, that the Duke of Kent, considering the arduous and various services through which he passed, was treated by successive administrations with strange neglect, and even cruelty. Why he alone should have been kept from the peerage beyond the accustomed age, cannot easily be accounted for, any more than his long, and apparently penal absence from his native land. Certain it is, however, that the Duke of Kent, with merits fully equal to any of his brothers, was less favoured than either of his seniors or juniors. His income at all times was extremely confined; in consequence of which, he was reduced to many painful

embarrassments, and became, without being chargeable with profligacy, heavily involved in debt, which perplexed him to such a degree, that he made over his income to a committee, for the purpose of clearing off his encumbrances, being resolved to circumscribe his expenditure within very narrow limits.

In pursuance of this plan of economy, he left England in 1816, and settled at Brussels ; where he lived in great privacy, and at a small expense. From thence he made excursions into Germany, to visit his royal relatives ; and it was during one of these, that he first saw and admired the Princess Victoria-Maria-Louisa, youngest daughter of the Duke of Saxe Coburg, and sister of Prince Leopold. She was born in 1786, and, in her sixteenth year, became the consort of the hereditary Prince of Leiningen ; a man old enough to be her father, being, at the time of his marriage, forty-five years of age. He, however, did not live long ; and at his death appointed his widow regent of the principality, during the minority of his son and heir. When the death of the Princess Charlotte made it necessary for the Duke of Kent to think seriously of marriage, he had not long to seek an object worthy of his hand. With the entire approbation of both families, his Royal Highness and the Princess of Leiningen were united at Coburg, May the twenty-ninth, 1818.

After complying with the condition required by the royal marriage act, the Duke and Duchess of Kent returned to the Continent, and settled at Amorbach, which her Royal Highness, as guardian of her son, had, during her widowhood, occupied as her residence. But when there appeared the promise that this union would give an heir to the British throne, the Duke very pro-

perly, respecting the attachment of the people to native-born princes, resolved to bring over his royal consort to Kensington, that the child which she bore might draw its first breath in England. His patriotic wish was thus far gratified; but Providence permitted him not to rear the tender blossom he had raised, and to protect her from the storms and blights of a ruthless and changing world.

The Duke of Kent, in person, bore a very striking resemblance to his father, when the King was in his meridian. There was also a great similarity between them in other respects; particularly in their habits of life, which were uniform and unvaried. The Duke, like his father, was an early riser; and, to insure punctuality in this object, he kept a servant, whose business it was, in the winter, to light the fire at a precise hour, for which purpose he was not allowed to go to bed till he had discharged that office. Precisely at six o'clock, a cup of coffee was brought to his Royal Highness by one attendant, and the tray removed by another. In the course of the morning, all the chief servants made their appearance in turn; and a bill of the expenses of the preceding day was produced by the house-steward, whose statement included the minutest articles, and all of them distinctly classed.

According to the late Mr. George Hardinge, one of the Welch judges, and a frequent visitor of the Duke, a hair-dresser for all the livery servants constituted one of the efficient characters on the establishment: the result was, that, in this complicated machine of souls and bodies, the genius of attention, of cleanliness, and of smart appearance, was the order of the day. Among other peculiarities, the Duke had his bells enumerated,

to preserve order and regularity of attendance. Five separate pulls were placed in a recess in the parlour next Kensington Gardens, each intended to summon a particular domestic; and the expense of these fittings alone, it is said, cost three hundred pounds. It is a fact worth mentioning, that the late Mr. Canning adopted the Duke's plan in his office at the Treasury, where, however, it was more necessary. The palace at Kensington, in the Duke's time, abounded with musical clocks; two of which chimed every quarter of an hour, and that not very agreeably to those who were engaged in business or conversation. Notwithstanding the narrow circumstances of his Royal Highness, his hand was always open to the relief of the distressed; and on every occasion of public charity, he came forward with alacrity, to aid the cause by his subscription and eloquence.

The mortal remains of this friend of human kind, and ornament of the royal line, lay in state for a short time at Sidmouth; and, on the 12th of February, were committed to the family vault in St. George's Chapel, Windsor.

CHAPTER VIII.

A.D. 1820.

THE death of the Duke of Kent was speedily followed by that of his venerable parent. The first signs of decay in the stamina of his Majesty's excellent constitution, appeared at the setting in of the winter; when, after suffering much from severe cold, he was attacked by a slight species of diarrhœa; which, however, yielded to astringent and anodyne medicines, and all apprehensions with respect to it ceased. On the first of January a bulletin was issued, stating that his Majesty's disorder had undergone no sensible alteration; that, though his bodily health had partaken of some of the infirmities of age, it had been generally good during the last month.

After the lapse of several days from this public announcement, the symptoms of a change occasioned peculiar anxiety and alarm. The disorder returned with greater violence, the physicians were in constant attendance, and the lords in waiting remained longer than usual. The royal patient, in the early access of this second attack, rejected animal food; and though the most nourishing diet was prepared for him, every thing failed to sustain or recruit exhausted nature. He was, in consequence, reduced to a skeleton; his blood was become torpid; and though artificial means were employed to raise the temperature of the apartments, the King continued to manifest increasing suffering from

cold. It was not, however; till within two days of his dissolution, that he kept his bed entirely, though for some time past he had not risen at his accustomed early hour.

The symptoms of approaching death were now so certain and rapid, that Sir Henry Halford came express to town, and had an immediate audience of the Duke of York; who, in consequence, set off for Windsor without a moment's delay. At ten o'clock on Saturday morning, January the 29th, the physicians felt assured that the crisis was near, and that this day must terminate the scene. As the evening advanced, his Majesty became gradually weaker, till nature was quite exhausted, and at half past eight o'clock he breathed his last, without a struggle, in the eighty-second year of his age, and the sixtieth of his reign.

The decay, though rapid, was unaccompanied with any violent changes; so that none of the physical excitement occurred, which, in some cases of mental derangement, restores to sufferers, in their last moments, a transient use of understanding, a flickering of light, which throws horror on the surrounding objects, and imbitters the agonies of death. Here, on the contrary, all was tranquil, and awfully serene. The venerable monarch was spared this last pang: there was no returning gleam of reason, to torture him with the sense, either of what he had lost, or of what he was about to lose for ever. If he had not the melancholy satisfaction of witnessing the presence of his favourite and affectionate son, he was saved from the anguish of missing the beloved and aged partner of his throne, of his darling grandchild, and of the estimable Prince Edward, whose virtues so nearly resembled his own.

The world had been, to George the Third, a blank for the space of ten years ; and upon those who remembered him in his active life, his appearance in solitude must have had an effect not unlike that produced by contemplating a temple no longer devoted to its sacred uses, but left to desolation and darkness.

It was well observed by an anonymous writer in one of the daily prints, that "The deceased King retained his faculties only to witness the dawn of that splendour which his consistent and intrepid policy towards foreign powers had prepared for the arms of England. He was not rewarded for the virtues of a long life, and the anxieties of a restless and stormy reign, by beholding those proofs of his own wisdom which were destined to immortalize his memory. The triumphs of Wellington were rich in blossom, but had not yet borne their appropriate fruits. The seeds of Buonaparte's downfall, on another side, were already sown, in his preparations for an attack upon the Russian empire, and in his intolerable tyranny over the central nations of Europe. The ripening of that abundant harvest also was withheld by Providence from the observation of our afflicted sovereign. Yet was he saved from many griefs by the same hand which rendered him unconscious of those signal benefits. An American war was approaching, when his malady seized him : he thus escaped the mortification of knowing with what imbecility his service was carried on, and by how improvident and unwise a peace that national conflict was concluded. His Majesty was further spared the unhappiness of knowing what unseemly agitations have troubled our internal tranquillity—what privations have distressed the labouring classes of his subjects—and what alarming encroach-

ments on British liberty have impaired the bulwarks of that noble constitution, which, from the earliest periods of his government, commanded his reverence and forbearance:—still more fortunately, he did not live to feel the pangs of widowhood, after fifty-seven years of happy wedlock—nor to weep over two generations of his children mouldering in the untimely tomb.

“The good King possessed that accidental felicity, which is considered essential to the completeness of every human reputation. He had not merely great and useful qualities, but they were qualities adapted to the position in which he was placed, called for by the period during which he acted, and congenial to the character of the nation over which he ruled. Henry the Fourth, of France, would be to mankind at large a far more dazzling and captivating monarch ; but he would not have so well suited the meridian of the people of England, nor the exigencies of the present age. The religion of Henry was not sufficiently serious ; his morals were not austere enough to rebuke and confound the licentious infidel—the living pestilence of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The sober dignity of the English court, while George the Third threw around it the mantle of his domestic affections and well-regulated life, represented truly the characteristic virtues of this grave and manly nation, and powerfully encouraged and sustained them. He did not, like some of his predecessors since the Revolution, imprison one queen, nor neglect another, nor lavish public honours on foreign prostitutes, nor offend the matron purity of English wives and mothers, by the dull indecency of monstrous and tasteless vice. We mean George the Third no dishonour, we do him none, by saying, that the familiar name of **JOHN BULL**

was applicable specifically to the whole constitution of his mind and habits. He was an Englishman all over—but an Englishman worthy to be at the head of a nation of English. There are none of our kings, to whom, in respect of masculine force and moral excellence, he may not be advantageously compared :

Micat inter omnes

Julium sidus.

It was the glory of the lamented monarch, to shun the weak example of those who preceded him ; but it will, we trust, be the pride of his successors to follow the just example he has left.”

Adequate justice has not been done to the abilities of George the Third. His conversation in public was light and superficial ; but he often had a purpose in such dialogue, and often indulged in it to relieve himself from the weight of more serious thoughts. The King taking exercise or amusement, and the King in the cabinet, were two different persons. In the discussion of public concerns, he was exceedingly acute, and his habitual application to business enabled him to refer with ease to the bearings of every subject. All his ministers have borne willing testimony to his penetration, candour, and condescension, whenever called upon to deliberate matters of state in the closet or at the council board. He never, like his immediate predecessor, threw himself into a passion, when a difference of opinion occurred between him and the cabinet. Though firm in what he conceived to be right, his Majesty always argued the question with calmness, and heard, without betraying the least impatience, whatever others had to say on the opposite side. He passed over nothing, that was submitted to his consideration, with

indifference or perfunctory haste. Every paper that came under his inspection contained marks of his observation; and the notes which he almost invariably subjoined, or wrote in the margin, exhibited at once his attention and judgment. The following is only one instance, out of many that might be produced.

At the beginning of 1787, a marine, named Edward Biddoe, was tried on board the *Carnatic* at Portsmouth, for striking a sergeant of the corps while the latter was endeavouring to put an end to a fray. A court-martial, of which Captain Peregrine Bertie was president, was held, and the marine was found guilty, with a recommendation to mercy. The proceedings were, of course, laid before the King by Earl Howe, who received from his Majesty the following note.

“QUEEN’S HOUSE, Jan. 25, 1788.

“10 min. past 7. p. m.

“So very heinous an offence, as the striking a superior, is so total a subversion of all military discipline, that I should not have thought myself entitled to grant the mercy the court-martial have solicited for, had I not maturely read over the minutes of the court-martial; and I think it possible the prisoner may not, in the heat of dispute with another marine, and the darkness of the place, have instantly known the sergeant who interposed: besides, the evidences seem to cast a strong impression of the sergeant being none of the best, and therefore may not have conducted himself as he ought. I leave it to the discretion of Lord Howe, whether any punishment less severe can be inflicted; or whether, if it cannot, he may not be pardoned, with some assurance that it is a determination, in future, not to remit the sentence, if a superior is struck by an inferior.

“G. R.”

To this note, the King subjoined the following postscript, which shews how carefully he weighed and examined all cases submitted to his decision.

“When we pass suddenly from the broad light into a region of darkness, the power of discernment is not to be depended upon—I am not aware whether this can apply to the case in question, but I rather think it will,”

The King was perfectly correct. The dispute occurred in the mess-room after dark, and therefore it was not easy to determine from whom, in the confusion, the blow came, or for whom it was intended. The marine was pardoned of course.

It has been said, that the King was not a great reader; and, indeed, that he scarcely ever took up a book. This is a gross mistake; for though he was not a studious man, he had always a taste for literature; and his reading was both extensive and judicious, as his recorded conversations with Johnson and Beattie sufficiently prove. When Adams, the optician and mathematical instrument maker, presented his “*Treatise on the Use of the Globes*” to the King, who had given him permission to bring the volume out under the royal sanction, his Majesty looked over the dedication, and said, “This is not your writing.” “No, Sire,” replied Adams, “it was composed for me by Dr. Johnson.” “I thought so,” answered the King; “it is excellent—and the better for being void of flattery, which I hate.”

When Johnson himself had an interview with the King in the royal library, his Majesty’s acquaintance with English history appeared, in his observations upon Lord Lyttleton’s *Life of Henry the Second*, which had been just published. A further instance of his tact and taste on literary subjects was given, in his desiring the

great biographer to write the *Life of Spenser*; which, though the Doctor promised, he failed to execute.

George the Third has been charged with obstinacy. The following circumstance shews how ready he was to retract a hasty judgment, and to make amends for any warm expression. His Majesty one day observed to Colonel Price, that he had an intention to have a particular tree cut down, and asked, whether it did not, in his opinion, mar the prospect. The Colonel dissented. "Ay," replied the King, "that's your way; you continually contradict me." "If your Majesty," said the Colonel, "will not condescend to listen to the honest sentiments of your servants, you can never hear the truth."—After a short pause, the King kindly laid his hand on the Colonel's shoulder, and said, "You are right, Price; the tree shall stand."

The temperance of the King was almost proverbial. He rose both in summer and winter before six o'clock. He took a slight breakfast at eight, and dined off a plain joint, usually mutton, at one. He retired early to rest, after passing the evening with his family, sometimes at cards, but generally amused with music, of which he was very fond, and in the knowledge of which he evinced considerable taste. Handel was his favourite author; and it is recorded, that when the great composer was once playing at a private party of the royal family, observing the fixed attention of Prince George, then very young, he placed his hand upon his head, and said, "Ay, this is the boy that will make my music live when I am dead."

Agricultural pursuits may be justly ranked among the amusements of the King; and thus, as Burke justly observed, he was a patriot in every respect, private and

public. Habitual piety was always the prominent feature of his exemplary character. Those who witnessed him at his morning devotions in the private chapel at Windsor, could never forget the fervour of his responses during the service. This constant sense of religion, doubtless contributed to the invariable firmness and serenity of his mind. When one of the young princes was hourly expected to die, the King was sitting, on a Sunday evening, reading to his family. An attendant came to announce the tidings of the child's death. The King exchanged a look with him, signifying that he understood his commission, and then went on with his reading till the sermon was finished. Barrow, among the old theologians, was the most esteemed by his Majesty; and in the copy of that author's works, belonging to the royal library, are many marks, divisions, and emendations, in the King's hand-writing.

The piety of the King was not of a bigoted cast; nor did he affect the character of an ascetic. It was the religion of the heart, and it shone forth in all the actions of his life. Though firmly attached to the established church, for which, and the constitution, he would have laid down his life, he was no less a friend to toleration, consistent with the security of the state.

The day of the funeral was remarkable; being the 15th of February, the first of Lent, or Ash-Wednesday—and it was indeed a day, if not of fasting, yet of general mourning. The Duke of York followed the corpse as chief-mourner; and after him came, in heraldic order, the Dukes of Clarence and Sussex, Prince Leopold, and the Duke of Gloucester.

BOOK THE FIFTH.

CHAPTER I.

A.D. 1820.

SCARCELY had the ceremony of proclaiming **GEORGE THE FOURTH** taken place, when a diabolical conspiracy was discovered, and defeated, having for its object the overthrow of the government. On Wednesday, the twenty-third of February, in consequence of private information that an attempt was about to be made to destroy the cabinet ministers while assembled at the **Earl of Harrowby's** house in Mansfield-street, the chief magistrate of Bow-street, with a party of the patrol, proceeded, about eight o'clock in the evening, to Cato-street in the Edgeware Road, where the desperadoes were already assembled in a kind of loft over some stables. The only approach to this pandemonium was by a narrow ladder. Ruthven, one of the officers, led the way, and was followed by others. On the door being opened, about thirty men were seen, either armed, or employed in arming themselves, and preparing their weapons. In a moment all was confusion; and when the patrol rushed forward, one of them, named Snrithers, was stabbed to the heart. While this was doing, the lights were extinguished, and a fearful conflict ensued.

At this moment, Captain Frederick Fitzclarence, with a detachment of thirty of the Coldstream guards, arrived from the Portman-street barracks. On coming into the neighbourhood of Cato-street, he commanded the soldiers to fix bayonets, and every man to be silent. Almost immediately afterwards, they heard the report of a pistol; upon which they were instantly ordered to advance in double-quick time towards the spot whence the sound proceeded. On reaching the stable, a man darted out, but in the act of making off, he was prevented. Finding his retreat intercepted, he pointed a pistol at Captain Fitzclarence, when Sergeant Legge broke his aim by knocking the pistol out of his hand, at the instant of its discharging. The sergeant was wounded in the right arm, but the ruffian was secured. The captain then directed the men to follow him into the stable; but their entrance was opposed by a black, who aimed a blow at the commanding officer with a cutlass, which one of the soldiers warded off with his musket. The fellow then exclaimed, "Let us kill all the red coats; we may as well die now as at any other time." He also was secured, and they then all entered the stable.

Captain Fitzclarence being first, was attacked by another of the gang, who pointed at him a pistol, which flashed in the pan; upon which the soldiers took him likewise, when he said, "Don't kill me, and I'll tell you all about it." The soldiers then mounted the loft, where they found the body of the murdered officer, and another man lying near him. The latter, who was one of the gang, on being ordered to rise, exclaimed, "I hope you'll make a difference between the innocent and the guilty. Don't hurt me, and I'll tell you how it happened." Five more were then secured; one of them

declared he was led into it that afternoon, and that he was innocent. While the soldiers were engaged below, Mr., since Sir Richard Birnie, was no less active above, encouraging his officers to do their duty ; but unfortunately, the darkness favoured the escape of many of the wretches, and the dreadful skirmish ended with the capture of only nine of them. These were instantly handcuffed, and conveyed in hackney-coaches to Bow-street under a strong military escort. The office was crowded with soldiers and officers bringing in arms and ammunition of various kinds, that had been taken ; blunderbusses, muskets, pistols, swords, cartouch-boxes, ball-cartridges, gunpowder, and a bundle of stilettoes of singular construction. These weapons were about a foot and a half long, triangular in form, two of the sides being concave, and the other flat, the handle ending in a screw, as if to fit into a socket. Several staves to receive these formidable instruments were also discovered.

The depositions of the civil officers, and several of the soldiers, having been taken, the prisoners were committed for further examination. From the evidence it appeared, that Captain Fitzclarence seized and secured one or two of the prisoners with his own hand ; and he was not only very much bruised, but his uniform was almost torn in pieces.

Arthur Thistlewood, the principal of this gang, effected his escape that night ; but, in consequence of a reward of one thousand pounds being offered for his apprehension, he was taken the next day by a party of the police office, at an obscure house in Moorfields. In the course of the same day, several other arrests took place, the principal of which was that of a man named Brunt,

who was stated to be second in command to Thistlewood. At his lodgings in Gray's-Inn Lane were found a vast quantity of hand-grenades, charged with gunpowder and other combustibles, the explosion of which must have produced horrible destruction. All the prisoners were committed to the Tower, and, on the 17th of April, their trials came on at the Old Bailey; when three were admitted as evidences for the crown, six were allowed to plead guilty, and Thistlewood, with four of the most desperate, received judgment of death, which was carried into execution on Monday, the 29th of that month. It is melancholy to relate, that the only one of these miserable culprits who manifested any compunction, or sense of religion, on the scaffold, was the man of colour, who appeared to be a true penitent.

The assassination of the Duke of Berri at Paris by a political fanatic, and the infernal attempt to destroy the widowed duchess, with the child of which she was pregnant, were remarkable coincidences, as happening about the same time with the conspiracy; for, though no connexion subsisted between these murderous transactions, both the one and the other certainly sprang out of the same revolutionary principles.

But our attention is now unequivocally summoned to a state of things, the very mention of which brings up a train of reflections painful in the remembrance.

Previous to the dissolution of parliament, consequent on the demise of the crown, motions were made in the House of Commons on the 21st of February, for supplies to meet the exigences of the service during the current year. This ordinary proceeding, which at other times would have passed without observation, proved the prelude to a storm. When the Speaker was about

to leave the chair, Mr. Hume wished to know what provision was intended to be made for the Queen.

Lord Castlereagh declined answering the question, until the subject should come regularly before parliament. Upon this, Mr. Tierney said, that after what had taken place, it was time to speak out openly. An order in council had been issued, he observed, for omitting all mention of the Queen in the church service. This implied some ground of suspicion. Rumours were afloat, which, if true, proved the Queen unworthy to sit on the British throne. "But," said Mr. Tierney, "these might be mere idle calumny; and in that case, parliament was bound to maintain the Queen in her rights and privileges."

Mr. Brougham spoke as if all this was new to his ears; and he affected to differ from his honourable friend, because he was wholly unacquainted with any grounds of suspicion. He was totally ignorant, he said, of any inquiries that had been instituted; he listened not to their reported results; nor would he suffer his mind to receive any sinister impressions. But if a charge should ever be brought forward, he would deal with it as became an honest member of parliament; and he would endeavour to do justice between the parties most concerned. Until that moment, big with importance, big with unspeakable importance to the parties—with an importance, of which those who were ignorant of the case could form no conception—until that moment arrived, his lips should be sealed.

In all this, impartial men saw the ingenuity of political tacticians. A general election was at hand, and the agitation of the Queen's case, in the expiring stage of the old parliament, was well calculated, though prema-

ture in itself, to answer the purposes of party, by making a powerful impression upon the public mind throughout the empire.

On the 27th of April, the first parliament of George the Fourth assembled, when the King, in his speech from the throne, expressed the satisfaction he felt at the improved state of the country, by the prompt measures that had been pursued for the suppression of sedition and insurrection. The customary addresses were carried without opposition or remark, in both houses ; and, as far as that went, there was every appearance of tranquillity. So confident, indeed, were the King and his ministers in the stability of order and peace, that preparations on a splendid scale for the coronation were made, and the court of claims was established.

Things, however, soon took another turn : the rumour of the Queen's approach put an end to the works ; and the day of the spectacle, which had been fixed for the first of August, the anniversary of the accession of the Brunswick line to the British throne, was now left undetermined, to wait the issue of coming events. Meanwhile, a negociation was privately carried on with Mr. Brougham, the legal adviser of the Queen ; and terms were offered, which, though that gentleman had not direct authority to accept, certainly met with his approbation. But Caroline had made up her mind to cross the Alps, never to return to Italy again. On Thursday, the first of June, she arrived at St. Omer, near which place she was met by Alderman Wood, who at this time possessed a greater share of her confidence than her elder and more tried friends. From St. Omer she wrote three letters ; one to the Earl of Liverpool, demand-

ing a palace to be instantly fitted up for her reception; another to Lord Melville, ordering him, as first lord of the admiralty, to send over to Calais a royal yacht, for her accommodation, and conveyance to Dover; and the third to the Duke of York, full of angry remonstrance and vindictive denunciation.

On the evening of Saturday, Mr. Brougham and Lord Hutchinson arrived at St. Omer; the former on behalf of the Queen, and the latter commissioned by the Government. Mr. Brougham, of course, had his audience first, and, after a few complimentary phrases, he announced to the Queen, that Lord Hutchinson, who had formerly been her warm friend, and was now in the confidence of the King, had come, in the spirit of sincere regard for both, to make some proposals in his Majesty's name; and such as it was hoped would prove satisfactory. When, however, the terms were stated, and the condition explained, that the Queen, in consideration of an annuity of fifty thousand pounds, should remain out of England, and relinquish the regal title; she indignantly spurned the proposals, and at once resolved to brave all consequences.

In this, she unquestionably did not follow the counsel of Mr. Brougham, who, though he still adhered to her interests, wished to have continued the negotiation at St. Omer, rather than in the English metropolis; where, he well knew, the difficulties would so increase, as to render a pacific arrangement impossible. At this time, the Queen was very far from being pleased with her legal friend, whose prudential counsels, she thought, savoured too much of an inclination to gratify the Government at her expense. The circumstance of his embarking in the same vessel with the King's agent, travelling in the

same vehicle, sleeping at the same inns, and eating at the same table with a nobleman charged with a mission which the Queen considered rather in a hostile than a friendly light, excited some emotions of resentment and jealousy in her mind. Under the impression thus produced, and at the instigation of other persons, who were ill qualified to advise or to act in such a case, this extraordinary woman, immediately on the rupture of the negociation, left St. Omer for Calais, and so suddenly, that Mr. Brougham had no time to follow her to the coach; and, indeed, scarcely knew that she was gone, till, on looking out of the window, he saw the carriage drive away from the door. It was said, that this abrupt departure arose from an apprehension of personal danger to the Queen, while she remained in France; and where, in all her progress, she certainly had been treated with marked disrespect. But even admitting the existence of any ground for such fear on the part of the royal stranger, in a country then at peace with England, there could be no reason for her quitting Mr. Brougham in a manner that implied, as strongly as action could express, a feeling of displeasure.

Immediately on reaching Calais, the Queen went on board the packet, and there passed the night, being, as it would seem, afraid to trust herself in the hotel, lest the French authorities should interfere, and impede her embarkation. At seven the next morning, the packet got under weigh; and, in the afternoon, the Queen landed at Dover, from whence she proceeded without delay to Canterbury, where she slept that night, and on Tuesday evening made her joyous entry into the metropolis.

The history of the proceedings that ensued cannot

here be detailed, and will scarcely admit of abridgment. After several ineffectual attempts to bring about a satisfactory settlement, for the preservation of the public peace, and the prevention of disclosures injurious to the national character ; the Government was driven to the necessity of bringing the whole case under judicial investigation. On the fifth of July, the Earl of Liverpool brought into the House of Lords a Bill of Pains and Penalties against the Queen, charging her with adulterous practices at various times and places, with a menial servant, upon whom she conferred a pretended order of knighthood, without any lawful authority for so doing. The die therefore was now cast ; the parties were at issue ; and on the 17th of August, the Lords assembled pursuant to a call of the house, when the Lord Chancellor stated, that he had received a letter from the Duke of Sussex, in which his Royal Highness begged leave to submit to their lordships, whether, on account of the ties of consanguinity existing between him and the parties intimately connected with the bill, it would not be proper to permit him to be absent upon this occasion. The application was acceded to of course, though, at the same time, there was not a man, in or out of that house, who thought it worthy of respect ; since the royal personage might have attended, and ought, unquestionably, as a peer of parliament, to have attended all the proceedings, without entering into the inquiry. So, at least, thought the Duke of York, who rose and said, that if any person, on a variety of grounds, had stronger claims than another to request leave of absence upon this occasion, he was that individual. Notwithstanding this, his Royal Highness observed, he would not suffer any private feelings to

deter him from doing his duty, however painful it might prove.

The Duke of Clarence adopted the same course, and attended every day during the proceedings. For this, both of the royal personages incurred no little share of the public abuse; and they were even held up as objects of ridicule and contempt at the bar of the House of Lords, by the two leading advocates of the illustrious defendant. The Duke of York, though he took no part in the business, had his character pulled to pieces, in a direct reference to the inquiry that had been instituted into his conduct, eleven years before, in the House of Commons. What that had to do with this investigation, it was neither easy to discover nor to surmise; but as the allusion was calculated to make an impression upon the auditory, it was laid hold of with eagerness, and applied against the royal personage with all the sarcastic force of inventive genius, and expatiated upon with malignant comments by the writers of the daily press.

The Duke of Clarence fared still worse than his brother; for, having thought proper to put questions to some of the naval witnesses, he was assailed in language which even the license of the bar could not justify. The most scandalous imputations were thrown out upon his Royal Highness, as having taken part in a foul conspiracy for the ruin of his innocent relative, of whom he had formerly spoken in terms of the warmest affection and admiration. This supposed change from friendship to enmity was ascribed to the worst of all motives, that of a selfish compliance with the will and wish of the Sovereign. The calumniators even went further, and denounced the Duke of Clarence with having industriously sought out evidence abroad, long before the trial, for

the purpose of being used against his cousin and sister-in-law, in case it should ever be needed.

False and improbable as the accusation was, it received credence from the fickle multitude, who are always disposed to believe whatever tends to disparage the reputation of such of their superiors as, from conscientious principles, refuse to be carried away by popular clamour. Why either of the royal Dukes should be debarred the common right of their order as peers, in any case, or why they should be censured for attending a cause involving the honour of their Family, and that of the nation, (setting their individual interests, as princes of the blood, aside,) are questions which it would be a waste of words to argue. In defiance, however, of every principle of justice and every rule of decency, the two illustrious personages, who thought themselves bound in duty to be present in the House of Lords throughout these unpleasant proceedings, were put upon their trial at the bar of the public press, without being allowed the means of defence. It was much to be regretted that the confidential advisers of the Queen, and those who called themselves her select friends, should have gained such an ascendancy over their client, as to make her the instrument of wounding the feelings of nearly the whole of her relations, male and female. There was, however, hardly one of the answers which she returned to the numerous addresses presented to her, that did not contain language of the most inflammatory nature against the Government, and invidious reflections upon the Family to whom she was allied.

To a mob of sailors, the Queen delivered a long and laboured string of pointed antitheses, so ingeniously contrived, as to prove at once complimentary and viru-

lent ; flattering to the profession in general, and vituperative of individuals. This curious composition is pretty well understood to have been the production of Dr. Parr, and it certainly bears all the characteristics of his affected style. Of this declamatory tirade, the following is a specimen :

“ A British seaman is another name for downright sincerity, and plain-spoken truth. A British seaman always says what he thinks, and is what he seems. A British seaman never deserts his flag, and never abandons his companion in distress. A British seaman is generous to his enemy, but he is never faithless to his friend. His heart is not fickle and inconstant like the element on which he moves, or the wind which fills the sails of his ship. The word of a British seaman is as sure as his bond. His veracity is incorruptible. A British sailor is generous to excess, and brave even to a fault. There is no extremity of distress in which he will not share his last shilling with his friend, and often even with his foe : nor are there any circumstances in which he will not prefer death to disgrace ; and every evil under the sun, to cowardice.—I am not surprised that British seamen, who are as compassionate as they are brave, should feel for my sufferings, and should be indignant at my wrongs. The wrongs and sufferings of a woman, and that woman a Queen, must make a deep impression on their generous hearts. It is only the base and the cowardly that can tamely acquiesce in injustice and inhumanity ; and I am fully convinced, that insulted greatness, or depressed rank, can no where find a surer refuge, or more steady protection, than in the sailors and soldiers of this country.”

Many of the other answers were written in as false taste as this, and some in a strain infinitely worse. The working classes of the metropolis were reminded of their hard condition, in this manner :

“ There have been times, and perhaps those times may still be, when the hard-earned bread of the long-toiling peasant or mechanic is insufficient for his numerous family ; when the penury of the day is succeeded by the inquietude of the night ; and when night and day, and day and night, are only a sad succession of pining wretchedness and of hopeless woe. That order of things, which, in a large portion of the community, necessitates the acquisition of subsistence by the sweat of the brow, is the institution of Providence, for the benefit of man : but who does not see, that it is not owing to any ordinance of the Deity, but to the hard-heartedness of the oppressor, when the sweat of the brow during the day, is followed by the tear of affliction at its close ; when the labour of the hand, only adds to the aching of the heart ; and what ought to be a source of joy, is an aggravation of calamity ? But, if these things have been, I may, perhaps, be permitted to hope, that they will, ere long, be only as the troubled scenery of a transient dream ; and that happier times are approaching, when commerce will crowd our rivers, trade be busy in our streets, and industry smiling in our fields.”

What possible connexion these had with the Queen's case, or with what propriety such language was put into her mouth by the agents in her employ, no morally constituted mind could conceive. Yet these answers to addresses were all penned by religionists ; some, as already stated, by Parr, and the greater number by a Unitarian seceder from the church, on the Doctor's recommendation. This appointment proved singularly fortunate to the secretary ; for, by virtue of it, he became acquainted with an old political zealot, who was so pleased with these productions, that he made a new disposition of his immense property, the whole of which, to the injury of his nearest relatives, he bequeathed to the author of these venal productions.

Any further discussion of this painful subject would be superfluous, but thus much has been thought necessary in justification of the august personages who, from a feeling sense of what they owed to the honour of their family, their individual interests, and the dignity of the throne, conceived it to be their duty to watch the progress of a measure, that so essentially affected themselves. Not to have done so, would have betrayed a culpable indifference to the ends of justice, or an unworthy fear of popular clamour ; either of which must, in the issue, have made them objects of contempt.

Amidst these unpleasant proceedings, the Royal House of Great Britain lost one of its brightest ornaments, in the death of the Duchess of York, at Oatlands, on the sixth of August. The life of this excellent princess had for some years glided on in a very retired manner, but with so much practical utility in works of benevolence, that her funeral, which took place, at her own desire, in the parish church of Weybridge, evinced the sorrow that prevailed throughout the whole of the neighbourhood. Her delight consisted in making others happy ; and, never having had any children of her own, she adopted those of the poor, whom she fed, clothed, and educated. Nor did her charitable care end there ; for she put out such of her protégés as were found worthy, to useful occupations, and set them up in business afterwards. Besides all this, she had a long list of infirm pensioners, who were paid annually, from her private income, some five, others ten, and not a few twenty pounds. These, and all her other bounties and subscriptions, were continued by the Duke after her death.

On the 10th of December, this year, the Royal Family received great gratification in the birth of a daughter to

the Duke of Clarence. The delivery of the Duchess was premature; but the child, though under the ordinary size, was well formed, active, and promised to live. The baptismal ceremony, however, was administered immediately after the birth, when the name of Elizabeth was given to the infant, in compliance with the desire of the King. This was the last offspring of the royal parents, and in less than three months, all hopes of the succession in that quarter were extinguished, by an intussusception of the bowels, which proved fatal to the child in a few hours.

The Duchess of Clarence was so deeply affected by this calamity, that her life was for some time despaired of; but the consolations of religion came to her relief:—in the following year she had another miscarriage, from the effects of which she also slowly recovered, to the great joy of her friends.

It may here be recorded, that at the close of this year, the royal Duke had the pleasure of giving away his eldest daughter, Miss Eliza Fitzclarence, to the Earl of Errol, in St. George's Church, Hanover Square. On this occasion, the bridal dress was a joint present from the Queen of Wurtemberg and the Princesses Augusta and Sophia.

CHAPTER III.

A. D. 1821 TO 1823.

TOWARDS the close of the parliamentary session in 1821, ministers succeeded in carrying a proposition for granting an addition of six thousand a year, and eighteen thousand pounds for arrears, to the Duke of Clarence. The division was highly gratifying to his Royal Highness, and not less so to his august brother, there being one hundred and nineteen votes for, and only forty-three against, the motion. On the third reading of the bill, an amendment was proposed for withholding the arrears, but it was negatived by a still greater majority.

One thing remarkable on this occasion was, the connecting with it the claim of the Queen to be present at, and share in, the ceremony of the coronation. In consequence of this, the case was argued, by the King's direction, before the privy council, when the claim of right was rejected. Application was next made to the Archbishop of Canterbury, calling upon his grace to fix a day for the coronation of the Queen alone, and before the Abbey should be dismantled of the present fittings. To this preposterous demand, there could be but one answer—that the primate had no such power. The Queen was equally unsuccessful in her attempt to obtain an entrance into the church as a spectator only; and it certainly indicated very bad taste, as well as a

total want of prudence, in those who were about her person, and enjoyed her confidence, that they did not endeavour to prevent so degrading an exposure as that to which she submitted, in knocking for admittance at one door after another, without being allowed to pass at either.

Of the spectacle itself, we forbear from entering into any description. It was by far the most magnificent ceremonial of the kind ever witnessed in these realms ; and though the expenditure was great, it gave employment to thousands, and occasioned a large circulation of money for the benefit of trade. Sir Walter Scott, who made a journey of four hundred miles to behold the splendid scene, has made some observations on the subject, which are worthy of attention. 1

“I do not,” says that forcible writer, “love your *cui bono* men, and therefore I will not be pleased if you ask me, in the damping tone of sullen philosophy, what good all this has done to the spectators ? If we restrict life to its real animal wants and necessities, we shall indeed be satisfied with food, clothes, and fire ; but Divine Providence, who widened our sources of enjoyment beyond those of the animal creation, never meant that we should bound our wishes within such narrow limits ; and I shrewdly suspect that those *non est tanti* gentlefolks only depreciate the natural and unaffected pleasures which men like me receive from sights of splendour, and sounds of harmony, either because they would seem wiser than their simple neighbours, at the expense of being less happy ; or because the mere pleasure of the sight and sound is connected with associations of a deeper kind, to which they are unwilling to yield themselves.

"Leaving these gentlemen to enjoy their own wisdom, I still more pity those, if there be any, who (being unable to detect a peg on which to hang a laugh) sneer coldly at this solemn festival, and are rather disposed to dwell on the expense which attends it, than on the generous feelings which it ought to awaken. The expense, so far as it is national, has gone directly and instantly to the encouragement of the British manufacturer and mechanic; and so far as it is personal, to the persons of rank attendant upon the coronation: it operates as a tax upon wealth and consideration, for the benefit of poverty and industry; a tax willingly paid by the one class, and not the less acceptable to the other, because it adds a happy holiday to the monotony of life and labour."

Two remarkable instances of mortality, both full of matter for reflection, took place this year; one a little before, and the other almost immediately after, the coronation.

The first was the death of Napoleon Buonaparte on the fifth of May, at St. Helena, of a cancer in the stomach, or rather a scirrhus state of that organ. He had often said, that he should die of that disease which had killed his father. In conformity to his own wish, the body was opened, and the inspection proved the correctness of his opinion. It was noticed before his death, that for more than nine days he had refused all nourishment. This was attributed to obstinacy; but the state of the stomach shewed that he could not have taken the lightest food without pain; so that in one sense it might be said he was starved to death. Thus came to an obscure grave, in a remote island, the troubler of the earth; before whom, a few years before, powerful nations

trembled, and their proudest rulers crouched in abject submission. He had not, at the time of his death, numbered fifty-two years, being born at Ajaccio, in Corsica, on the 15th of August, 1769; yet, within that comparatively insignificant space, what mighty transactions and revolutions, in which he bore a prominent part, took place! At present, the multitude look back to these events as upon the tales of olden times; but men of deeper thought can discern in them the springs of still more and greater changes, some of which are now in operation, and others are beginning to give fearful signs of development.

The next instance of mortality, upon which it is proper to bestow a brief notice, was that of the Queen Consort of England, Caroline Amelia, who died at Brandenburg House on Thursday, the 7th of August, in the fifty-fourth year of her age. The disorder which terminated her eventful history was an inflammation of the bowels, aggravated, if not occasioned, by taking an excessive dose of magnesia, which produced an obstruction in the passages, and ended in mortification. According to her own desire, the remains of the Queen were conveyed to Brunswick, and there deposited in the same vault with those of her father and brother.

The intelligence of this change in the family reached the King in his progress to Ireland, where he was welcomed in a manner highly gratifying to his feelings. On his return from thence, he paid a visit to his German dominions, and on the 8th of November returned to London. In the following summer, his Majesty visited Scotland, where his reception was equally flattering. At Edinburgh, the King wished much to obtain a dirk that had belonged to Prince Charles Edward; but, strange

to say, the Highland chief, in whose possession it was, refused to part with the relic! An old lady, on hearing this, declared her intention to present a knife, fork, and spoon, which had belonged to the Prince, to his Majesty. They were accordingly placed in the hands of Sir Walter Scott, who delivered them to the King, by whom they were received very graciously; and his Majesty desired his warmest thanks to be conveyed to the donor, with expressions of his regard for every remembrance of the "unfortunate Chevalier," as he called him. At the drawing-room and the ball, the King took particular notice of the lady, and spoke of her present in a manner that shewed the high value he set on her gift. These articles were enclosed in an old case, which the lady would have exchanged for one of morocco leather, but his Majesty's good taste preferred the ancient garb.

While the King was thus gratifying his subjects, and relaxing from the cares of royalty, the Duke and Duchess of Clarence, chiefly for the benefit of their health, visited their friends in Germany.

On the last day of June, 1822, they embarked, with their suite, on board the Royal Sovereign yacht, and the next day arrived at Antwerp; from whence the royal party proceeded to Ghent, of which place, the Duke of Saxe Weimar was then governor, for the King of Holland. After passing a few pleasant days with the Duke and Duchess at their villa, the illustrious travellers set out for Coblenz, near which place they visited the chateau of their accomplished relatives of the house of Nieuwied. Here, Prince Maximilian, so well known for his perilous travels and discoveries in South America, exhibited his museum of subjects of natural history, and also a valuable cabinet of antiquities. But what

principally interested the royal visitors and their suite, says Dr. Beattie, who was one of the train, were the handiworks of some fair Moravian artists, comprising a long series of toilet ornaments, embossed or embroidered in a style peculiarly their own. These excited great admiration, in that quarter, where works of taste or merit never fail to secure patronage and encouragement. The Doctor adds, "Like the surgeon who lauds Homer for his accurate and scientific description of wounds, I greatly admired these objects of art, for their correct outline, delicate colouring, and beautiful delineation of some flowers and botanical subjects with which I am acquainted. For the encouragement of the artists, as well as for personal gratification, a quantity of these articles were purchased, and will form pleasing souvenirs of Nieuwied on more than one royal toilet in England. It is only here, I am informed, that work of this description has been attempted with equal taste and ingenuity."*

At Frankfort, the Duke and Duchess were received by the Landgrave and Landgravine of Hesse Homburg, with the Landgrave of Hesse, and other personages, all more or less allied to the royal family of Great Britain. Of the Landgravine, better known to our readers by the name of the amiable Princess Elizabeth, the journalist, whom we copy, says, "She has done more for the happiness and prosperity of the inhabitants, than all the combined events of the last century." Equally high is the praise given to the prince, her husband, who died in 1828. With the interest of his country warmly at heart, he had the good wishes of every one who passed an hour in his company.

* Dr. Beattie's *Journal of a Residence in Germany*, vol. i. p. 28.

On the 14th, the royal party arrived at Fulda, where they were met by the reigning duke of Saxe Meiningen, a tall, handsome young man, princely in his appearance and deportment, and just come of age. He is represented as partial to England, where he spent some time, and had acquired much of the English manner and character.

The following is Dr. Beattie's account of the regimen observed by the Duke of Clarence in travelling.

"During the eight days' journey to this country, his Royal Highness has not dined more than twice. He breakfasted in the morning at seven, upon tea, and a simple slice of dry toast. A slight luncheon, consisting of cold fowl, Westphalia ham, veal or *gibier*, (the latter, a favourite viand,) was prepared, and put into a small basket in the chariot. One or more of these, with bread, formed the staple banquet of the day, and were resorted to at pleasure. At night, on arriving at the inn, his Royal Highness took tea—and only green tea—of which a supply was brought from Ghent. This summed up the day's entertainment. However late the hour, or potent the infusion, the beverage, I understand, never interferes with his Royal Highness's rest. Such is the power of long habit."

In proportion to this temperate course of living, is the regard of the illustrious personage to economy.

"No man," says the same authority, "can be more attentive and anxious to limit and reduce his expenditure as much as is possible, or consistent with his exalted station, than his Royal Highness. He looks over all the accounts himself, sums up, calculates, adjusts, and compares, nicely balancing every item. When the first account of the expenditure from England to Altenstein

was given in, he examined it for half an hour with great attention, and expressed much surprise at the smallness of the amount.—‘I advise you to take it back, and re-calculate the items. It is impossible that I can have travelled from Antwerp to Altenstein for this sum ! How many miles is it ? I observe, here it is specified in stages :—nine days from the coast—fifteen persons—sixteen horses—three carriages—estafette included—one horse being charged for each person.’

“The account has been re-calculated minutely, and returned this morning. His Royal Highness is now perfectly convinced that the journey has been accomplished for the sum specified ; no more having been drawn. He expressed additional pleasure and surprise, and enclosed it to the treasurer. ‘There is no man,’ he added, ‘a better judge of accounts than Barton, and none more particular and correct. ‘This will please him.’”

On the 24th of July, the Duke of Clarence, attended by Dr. Beattie, set out to visit his sister, the Queen of Wurtemberg, at Stuttgardt. The next day, his Royal Highness had a very narrow escape with his life. At Kungelsau, where the carriage stopped to change horses, the postilion appeared to be inebriated, but there was no other in the place ; so his Royal Highness, though not indifferent to the result, made the best of necessity—and “away,” says the Doctor, “we went, as if drawn by the devil, and driven by an attorney. The road was good, confined between two hedges, and rising in a gentle acclivity, which was speedily overcome. Our postilion, suiting the word to the action, administered his mettled steeds with an alternate kick, and crack of the whip, which carried us in quick time to the top of the ascent.

“So far, well. Here began another experiment, the

descent—much too rapid and slippery to be safe. The road was bordered by a rugged precipice, and turned, at the foot of the descent, by a sharp angle to the left, which to have described, at this our present rate, must have been attended with imminent hazard. Crossing also the road at right angles, there was a second precipice, defended only by a slight parapet of two feet high. The danger was, that the sudden check which must be given to the carriage, in order to turn the angle safely, might be so sudden, as to overbalance it; or that the horses, either incapable of opposing sufficient resistance, or becoming unmanageable, it might be hurried over the precipice. The latter seemed the more probable, and one or other inevitable, at the time. The postilion, however, continued his career, every moment accelerated by the increased momentum. It was abundantly evident, that he had no power. He made use of every exertion, but in vain, to check the velocity with which he was proceeding. He had by no means calculated the weight of the carriage. His leaders, as usual, had neither bit nor rein; so that he had no command over them, but, instead of driving, was dragged after them. The danger was at its height. The precipice, upon which we were rushing, suddenly appeared. The feeling it excited was like that of the boatman who feels himself hurried irresistibly towards the cataract of Rheinfelden. Though momentary, it left an impression of all that is sublime in fear. The leaders touched the parapet; the wheelers, by a momentary and desperate manœuvre, were thrown on their haunches, almost under the body of the carriage. They offered all the resistance which living muscle and wretched harness could oppose in such an emergency. The effort succeeded. The leaders bolted

instinctively from the precipice. The carriage reeled for a moment—the wheelers sprang to their legs—the danger was over—but an instance of more imminent danger is of rare occurrence.”

Nothing farther happened in the journey worth notice, and on Friday, the Duke, who travelled under the title of Count Von Munster, embraced his sister at her palace of Louisburg. At the time of this visit, two young princesses of Wurtemberg resided with her Majesty. The eldest was affianced to the Grand Duke Michael of Russia; and there was then at the palace a patriarch of the Greek Church, deputed to instruct her Highness in the mysteries of that faith, preparatory to the marriage. This princess visited England, as the Grand Duchess Helene. After spending above a week at Stuttgart and in the neighbourhood, his Royal Highness returned to Meiningen, for the purpose of being present at the grand fete given in honour of the birth-day of the dowager Duchess.

On the 1st of September, the Duke and his royal consort left Meiningen for Heidelberg, where they were met three days afterwards by the Queen of Wurtemberg, to whom the Duke of Meiningen was now introduced for the first time. Her Majesty and the Duchess of Clarence had met on a former visit to this country. Here the Queen entertained her illustrious guests with some delightful excursions, chiefly on the Neckar, which, like the Rhine, abounds with romantic and beautiful scenery.

Of one of these water parties, Dr. Beattie says, “As the barge moved slowly against the stream, the chateau, with its towers and terraced steeps, looked more imposing than ever. On the right bank there is a convent,

charmingly situated upon an acclivity, sloping down to the water's edge. It still exercises, we are told, extensive spiritual influence in these parts. All along the course of the river, there was a fresh succession of objects—bourgs, chateaux, towns, and monasteries; but all tenantless, roofless, and deserted. Around them the vine thrives luxuriantly; a monastic ruin, without its vineyard attached, would form a striking anomaly in these parts. The evening was beautiful,—and at the more interesting points, the barge halted for the immediate and quiet enjoyment of the scene. Of this, and the varying colour of the hour, to which it owed its charm, it would be impracticable for any but a skilful painter to attempt delineation. The light and shade were often most singularly contrasted; the romantic turrets and roofs alternately relieved or obscured by the westering sun—here, lighted up as with fire; and there, sombre, cold, and desolate—kept the eye and the imagination agreeably employed during the excursion. Having halted a short time at a point concentrating all those picturesque and romantic features for which the river is so celebrated, the royal party disembarked, and returned in the carriages forwarded for that purpose towards Heidelberg. Her Royal Highness seemed delighted with this excursion. She paints with inimitable taste and effect from nature, and can readily appreciate the beauty and picturesque character of the scenery through which she has passed."

It is well known that George the Third had a most tenacious memory, and some extraordinary instances are recorded of his recollection of persons and circumstances after very long intervals of time. It appears that the same faculty was common to all his children.

Dr. Beattie says in his journal, "The Queen of Wurtemberg is not less gifted with a faithful memory than her royal brother. In conversing upon the many pleasing topics which early reminiscences supply, there was one here to-day, respecting their favourite Kew. Both agreed as to the year, the month, and the day, upon which the circumstance in question took place: the hour alone was left undecided. This might appear unimportant to any one not accustomed to place implicit reliance upon this faculty; but with these royal personages, the memory is almost an infallible book of reference. The circumstance happened just before the general peace in 1781-2."

The anecdote, no doubt, is perfectly correct in the circumstance, but, unfortunately for the narrator's own memory, it is grossly inaccurate in point of date. The general peace was not in 1782, but in 1783, at which time, the prince was in America, or the West Indies, from whence he returned in the summer of the last mentioned year. The matter is of no importance in itself; but it is one instance, out of many, how stories may be marred in the reporting.

After making a short stay at Hesse Homberg, the royal party left Germany for Brussels, where some delay took place in consequence of an accident to the carriage. Here Colonel, afterwards Sir Hutton Cooper, arrived, to pay his respects, accompanied by Dr. Sayer, so well known for his researches into the Scandinavian mythology. The Duke introduced these visitors to Dr. Beattie, as his particular friends, and observed, "Cooper is an old physician, one of your own profession, but preferring, he says, military tactics to medical statistics—don't you, Cooper?"

From Brussels the royal travellers proceeded to Ghent, where they rested for a few days, and, with the Weimar family, on the 21st of August embarked on board the Royal Sovereign at Antwerp. "It is pleasing to reflect," concludes Dr. Beattie, "that, during a journey of such length and variety, through the less frequented circles of Germany, neither hurt nor accident has occurred to any one. His Royal Highness has derived essential benefit from the tour. His confirmed state of health is a topic of frequent remark with himself, and of gratifying observation with others. Air and exercise, in their due time, place, and proportion, seldom fail in imparting strength and stability to the constitution. In the economy of health, they are of the first-rate importance. There is probably no country in Europe, where they will be productive of more certain pleasure and advantage than in the provinces of the Rhine."

CHAPTER IV.

A.D. 1823 TO 1825.

IN the spring of 1823, after much difficulty and many obstructions, an institution was established at Plymouth, entitled, "The Royal Navy Annuitant Society." When an adequate number of officers had entered themselves as members, it was deemed expedient to solicit the Duke of Clarence to become the patron of the Society, and Viscount Melville to be the vice-patron. At the request of his Royal Highness, a deputation from the committee waited on him, when, after a minute examination of the rules and regulations, he stated his full approval of the institution, and condescended to become its patron. His Royal Highness had previously given support, in the same manner, to the Naval Charitable Society at Plymouth.

In the course of this year, the Duke of Clarence lost three of his old friends and associates—Lord Keith, Earl St. Vincent, and Lord Erskine.

With the first, who was then the Honourable George Elphinstone, his Royal Highness served for some time in the American war, off New York and the Chesapeake. When the prince's establishment was formed, on his becoming Duke of Clarence, Captain Elphinstone was appointed to the situation of treasurer and comptroller of the household of his Royal Highness; which he held nominally to his death. Upon the professional merits

and achievements of this naval veteran, it is unnecessary to dwell, but there are two incidents in his personal history worth mentioning. The noble admiral was twice married. By his first wife, who died in 1789, he had one daughter, who in 1817 married Count Flahault, aid-de-camp to Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo. The second partner of his lordship was the daughter of the famous Mrs. Piozzi, by her first husband Mr. Thrale. Lord Keith was sixty-two, when, in 1808, he ventured again into wedlock; and at the age of sixty-three he had another daughter, who survived him, as well as her mother.

Though this brave man had seen as much service as any commander in the navy, and that in all parts of the world, his health continued firm and good to the age of seventy-seven, when he closed his career at his native place, Tulliallan House, near Kincardine in Scotland, the 10th of March, 1823.

John Jervis, Earl St. Vincent, who died on the fifth of the same month, at his seat in Essex, is another remarkable instance of nautical longevity. He had numbered eighty-nine years, above seventy of which were devoted to the public service, either on shore or afloat. He was one of the last of the school of Hawke, under whom he entered as a midshipman in the year 1748, and in 1755 he became a lieutenant. In 1782 he was invested with the military order of the Bath, for his gallantry in the capture of the *Pégasè*, a French ship of seventy-four guns; in reporting which, Admiral Barrington, to whose fleet he was attached, said, in his official despatch, "My pen is not equal to the praise that is due to the good conduct of Captain Jervis, his officers, and seamen, on this occasion; but his own

modest narrative, which I here enclose, will speak for itself."

As a proof that he continued to be actuated by the same unassuming spirit, it deserves to be recorded, that when informed of his elevation to the peerage, and that the dignity conferred was named St. Vincent, commemorative of the victory he had gained; the noble veteran said he was satisfied, for that this title belonged to every officer and seaman of his fleet. The earl was a man of strong mind, resolute in what he undertook, and unbending in his ideas of discipline and subordination.

In the administration of Mr. Addington, now Lord Sidmouth, Earl St. Vincent was appointed to the presidency of the admiralty board, when he immediately instituted a rigid inquiry into the abuses that prevailed through the several departments of the naval service. For this purpose, in the summer of 1802, his lordship, accompanied by some of his colleagues, made a tour of inspection to the outports; where all the dock-yards and arsenals underwent a minute investigation, which was followed by numerous reductions, and the discharge of many men who had been employed for years in different offices. In consequence of this inquiry, at the next meeting of parliament a bill was brought in by Admiral Markham, for appointing commissioners to inquire into the abuses and irregularities practised in the naval departments. The bill passed through the Commons, and was sent to the Upper House; where, though supported by Lord Nelson and others, it was opposed by the Duke of Clarence, who contended that its provisions were nugatory, ridiculous, mischievous, and unconstitutional. His Royal Highness concluded a very long speech, with moving, that the bill be read

this day three months. The question being put upon the Duke's motion, it was rejected, and the bill passed.

On the dissolution of the administration, Earl St. Vincent was superseded, and Lord Melville took his place. Some discussion, in relation to this change, being brought on in the House of Commons, Mr. Pitt said, "I admire the dauntless valour, I extol the splendid achievements, I acknowledge the vast renown, of Lord St. Vincent: to him we are indebted for shedding extraordinary lustre on our national glory. But between his lordship as a commander at sea, and his lordship as first lord of the admiralty, there is a wide difference."

In consequence of this, the earl took the first opportunity to observe in the House of Lords, that a right honourable gentleman at the head of affairs, having, in another place, made his conduct the subject of animadversion, he was desirous of knowing, whether there was any intention, on the part of ministers, to submit that conduct to public inquiry—in order that he might be prepared to meet the charge?

Lord Hawkesbury, to whom the question was addressed, replied, that, as far as he knew, there was nothing of the kind in contemplation.

Soon after this, the Duke of Clarence took up the subject. His Royal Highness said, that, observing a noble viscount (Sidmouth) present, who had been at the head of the administration while his gallant friend managed the marine department, he could not forbear calling on his lordship for a declaration, now that he had joined with the present ministers, of the sense which he had formerly held, and still continued to hold, of the conduct of the noble commander, during the

period of his direction of the naval department. The royal Duke added, that, having known the noble earl for twenty-six years, he felt himself called upon, both as a member of that house, and as an officer, to state, that he had never seen cause to differ from his gallant friend, but once ; and that was with respect to his ideas on the subject of the peace. Had the conduct of the noble earl, in his ministerial capacity, become the subject of discussion, it should unquestionably have met with his decided support. He expected, therefore, from the noble viscount a consistent declaration as to the opinion which still remained in his mind, of the conduct of that noble and illustrious naval character.

Lord Sidmouth said, that, called on as he had been by the royal Duke, he could not resist answering the question which had been put to him. He felt no hesitation, therefore, in declaring now, as he had uniformly done before, that he highly approved of, and held in the most perfect respect, the conduct of the noble earl, both in his situation as a naval commander, and as the head of the marine department. He should be guilty of gross inconsistency, and of a violation of his own firmly fixed sentiments on the subject, if he did not state that the noble earl was, in his opinion, entitled not only to the thanks, but to the warmest gratitude of the country.

The royal Duke then observed, that he felt pleasure on hearing this consistent declaration of the noble viscount ; and would not trouble their lordships any further on the subject.

Notwithstanding this complimentary colloquy, however, it is certain that the noble earl was far from being popular while at the head of the admiralty. While he

received credit for correcting some abuses in the dock-yards, the violence of his proceedings was generally condemned. Many old and valuable officers, and a great number of the best artificers, were thrown out of the service, and obliged to seek a livelihood in Russia, America, and other maritime countries. The customary supplies of timber, and other naval stores, were omitted to be kept up; some articles, particularly hemp, were actually sold to disadvantage; and many of the ships were suffered to go unrepaired—so that, upon the renewal of the war, the navy was found to be in a worse state than it ought to have been after a peace of thirty years. All this arose from a false principle of economy and retrenchment; by following which, the government was soon after put to great inconvenience, and the nation to an enormous expense.

On the death of Lord St. Vincent, the Duke of Clarence succeeded to the lucrative station of general of the royal marines.

The following anecdote, which is highly honourable to the noble earl, rests upon indubitable authority. When as the head of the board, a captain in the navy, the son of a baronet, and of great connexions, applied to his lordship for a ship. The earl said, he was determined not to grant any thing to influence or intercession; and as a number of meritorious men, particularly lieutenants of line-of-battle ships, who had distinguished themselves in action, and become commanders, were cast out of employment, they should be preferred above all others, and in all cases short of a royal mandate.

Another extraordinary person, who terminated his chequered course of life this year, was Thomas, Lord Erskine. He was, at the outset of life, a midshipman

in the navy ; but quitted that service, on being denied promotion, and then entered into the army as an ensign in the Royals, or first regiment of foot. Finding, however, that he stood little or no chance of rising in the military profession, Mr. Erskine next turned his attention to the study of the law, and succeeded with a rapidity that could scarcely be expected. But upon his legal and political history it is unnecessary to make any observation.

While at the bar, his name stood pre-eminent ; and he might have left behind him a splendid reputation, and to his family a noble estate. Blind ambition ruined him ; and though he gained a title, and a retired pension, he passed the remainder of his life without a character, and ended it at the age of seventy-five in obscurity and poverty. Though the Duke of Clarence had long honoured Lord Erskine with his particular friendship, the part acted by the ex-chancellor, on the trial of the Queen, appeared so inconsistent, and even ungrateful, that no farther intercourse took place between them. What rendered the conduct of this eccentric man peculiarly disgusting was, that of obtruding himself to notice in a case which, above all others, exposed his own gross obliquities to public view, as a husband, and the father of a family.

About this time, there occurred a circumstance which, though not much observed, reflected great credit upon the liberal spirit of George the Fourth. His Majesty being informed that the remains of the unfortunate James the Second had been discovered by the workmen employed in digging the foundation of the new church at St. Germain's in France, then about to be built upon the site of the old edifice, expressed a desire that the relics should be removed to a proper receptacle. The

French government acceded to the wishes of the King of Great Britain, and, on the ninth of September, 1824, the body was removed in great state, and deposited beneath the altar, until the new church should be completed.

This was one of the last acts of Louis the Eighteenth, who, after a long and dreadfully severe illness, closed his eventful life on the 16th of September, 1824, in the sixty-ninth year of his age. The day before his death, he said to his brother and successor, "Judgment will soon be passed upon my reign; but whatever may be the opinion that shall prevail, I assure you, that every thing I have done has been the result of serious deliberation."

To the Duchess of Angouleme, who was in tears, he said, "If you knew what I have suffered for the last three years, you would not weep, but rejoice."

Louis was a good scholar, being well skilled in Latin and Greek. He is said also to have written some dramatic pieces, which were brought out without his name, or adopted by others. However various might have been the opinions of him as a sovereign, there could be but one as to his private character, which was strictly virtuous and amiable. He was firm in his religious principles, but far from being a bigot; as a proof of which, there was not an ecclesiastic in the procession at his funeral.

In 1771, the late king married Maria Josephine Louisa of Savoy, who died at Hartwell House in 1810, and lies interred in Westminster Abbey. His brother and successor, Charles Philippe, born in 1757, was married to Maria Theresa of Savoy, who died in 1805. By this princess he had two sons, the Duke d'Angouleme, and

the late Duke de Berri. The coronation of Charles the Tenth took place at Rheims, with a degree of pomp and parade, equal, if not superior, to that of Napoleon, on Sunday, the 29th of May, 1825. The English plenipotentiaries who attended this magnificent spectacle, were, the Duke of Northumberland, Lord Granville, and Sir George Nayler, who invested the King of France with the order of the Garter. On the 6th of June, Charles publicly entered the good city of Paris, but his reception was of the most chilling description. The shops were all shut ; and though most of the houses in the streets through which the procession had to pass, were hung with tapestry and ornaments, there was little appearance of loyal feeling in the inhabitants. The whole, indeed, might justly have been termed the funeral of royalty.

Of the two last kings of France, of that line, the Duke of Kent left behind him the following sketch, written in 1811. ‘

“To begin with Louis XVIII. There is no man that ever fell in my way, who is more agreeable in conversation than his majesty, or who has more of erudition, classical and historical. He is, indeed, well read in all the diversified branches of literature.

“His brother, Le Comte d’Artois, has all the elegant address of the court, and seems pleasant in general society ; but I suspect he is not considered as possessing those gifts and attainments of intellect for which the king is pre-eminently distinguished.”

CHAPTER V.

A. D. 1825 TO 1826.

IN the evening of the 20th of March, 1825, the Duke and Duchess of Clarence embarked at Woolwich, on board the Royal Comet steamer, for the Continent, and landed the next day at Calais, from whence they proceeded to Dunkirk, thence to Ghent, and on the first of April arrived at Meiningen. The inducement for taking the journey so early in the year was, to do honour to the marriage of the reigning Duke of Saxe Meiningen with one of the princesses of Hesse Cassel. The nuptial ceremony took place at Cassel on the 23d of March; and on the fifth of April, the young Duke and his bride made their joyous entry amid great rejoicings, which continued several days. These festivities, however, were suddenly interrupted by the death of Prince Charles Louis of Hohenlohe Langenburg, brother of the Duchess dowager of Saxe Meiningen. This was the second instance of mortality in the family within two months; the other was that of Frederick, the fourth Duke of Gotha, in whom the male line became extinct, and the dominions of the house fell to the collateral branches of Hildburghausen, Coburg, and Meiningen.

In this tour the Duke of Clarence took with him two of his unmarried daughters, who, soon after their arrival in Germany, were affected by the change of climate, so as to render medical attendance necessary. Dr. Beattie,

in noticing this, observes, "As a father, his Royal Highness might serve as a model to every parent in the British empire. Unremitting attention to their intellectual improvement, unwearied solicitude for their personal comfort and welfare, and an affection limited only by the dictates of prudence and good sense, give him at once a title to the affection of his family, and to the approbation of every observer.

"On attending the Duke in his private apartment, I every morning make my report respecting their health. A fortnight ago, Miss Amelia caught cold, followed by symptoms of a nature that demanded prompt and decisive treatment. During the interval, his Royal Highness visited her at a distance from the chateau, four or five times a day; always suggesting something to engage and divert her attention. She has been able to resume her usual exercise this afternoon, which has afforded the greatest satisfaction."

Among the domestics and dependants at the castle of Meiningen, there resided then, and perhaps does still, an aged African, to whom the Duke was very kind, and of whose feeling, in return, Dr. Beattie relates this pleasing anecdote.

"Poor old Henri! wherever I meet him, he expresses his gratitude both loud and long. 'O pless his Highness! pless him—pless him! What you tink his Highness give me?—pless him. What you tink?' I don't know, indeed, Henri; but here is something more, which you may count over at your leisure; it has a pleasant clink.

"Poor Henri's fluency of speech was suddenly stopped. He could not even repeat *pless him!* but instantly burst into tears—which said more.

“Henri is a trusty old servant, and a pensioner on the invalid list of the reigning family there, but now worn out with age and infirmities. He has served, I believe, more than one line of princes, and originally, on the shores of Guinea, might have been himself a prince.”

Another anecdote of the royal benevolence to an invalid of a different class follows: “This morning, an old soldier of the German Legion called upon me. He had just served so long, and been wounded so slightly, as to be dismissed in the King’s name, with a vivid recollection of the last campaign for his only pension, and a médal to tell the story whenever his memory failed. He had either been informed, or had dreamed, of his Royal Highness’s arrival in these parts; and thought, if he could find his way into the royal presence, it would be worth a month’s rations to him. He was not mistaken. I acquainted his Royal Highness with the services of the old soldier, and the hopes of the petitioner. He was satisfied with the veteran’s account of himself, and, in token thereof, I was commanded to present him with a gratuity proportioned to his necessities. The sight of gold was, indeed, a treat to him, who had seen and felt so much of the cold iron. As I dropt it into his hand, prayers, such as soldiers pray, were showered liberally upon the head of his illustrious benefactor.—‘Now it is I am proud of being a soldier,’ said he, ‘and a soldier of the German Legion.’”

At the end of May, the royal party left Meiningen for the baths of Ems, the salubrious qualities of which have been celebrated for ages, and are still frequented every summer and autumn, as much perhaps for pleasure as for health. Here the Duke and his family took up their

residence at the *Chateau-a-quatre-tours*, situated amidst scenery so romantic, that his Royal Highness said it reminded him of that on the river St. Lawrence, in North America.

A few days after his arrival at Ems, an officer waited upon the Duke, to compliment his Royal Highness in the name of the King of Prussia. The Duke received the aid-de-camp while taking his usual walk, in which he invited the stranger to join. "On the present occasion," says Dr. Beattie, "the walk, though not so long as many of those in which his Royal Highness is accustomed to indulge, was much longer than the Prussian officer expected on a visit of ceremony. It was more than two hours; and, on taking leave, he assured me, that, perfectly unaccustomed to such pedestrian feats, he was ready to drop with fatigue; and must, he feared, in the event of another visit, be obliged to perform his duty by proxy. He could not comprehend why a prince of the blood should voluntarily subject himself to such fatigue."

Some further interesting particulars of the royal habits, we shall take the liberty of giving on the same authority.

"Unless when engaged with important business or company, his Royal Highness observes the same punctuality in his hours of retiring and getting up, that he does in the public and private duties of his station. Eleven o'clock is the hour at which he generally retires. At seven in the morning he is dressed; and, when the weather permits, walks in the avenue or gardens till eight, or later. In this country, breakfast occupies but a few minutes,—a dish of coffee and a rusk comprise all that is generally offered. These are served in a small tray or plateau, during or immediately after the operation of

dressing. At the chateau, however, the English breakfast is still adhered to.

“When the letters are finished, and enclosed to the *chargé d'affaires* at Frankfort, his Royal Highness walks till dinner-time; then comes in, dresses, and proceeds to the drawing-room. He does every thing by system.

“Air and exercise are those essentials to health and longevity, which his Royal Highness observes with strict and uniform punctuality. His walks, which have occasionally extended to four, are very seldom less than two hours' duration, and generally taken at the hottest period of the day. When prevented by the state of the weather from indulging in out-door exercise, his Royal Highness uses the large drawing-room as a substitute, with one or more windows thrown open, so as to afford the best means of counteracting the effects of temporary confinement.

“If vigour of constitution is to be acquired or improved by the quantum of exercise thus taken without fatigue, his Royal Highness may anticipate a hale and green old age.

“In travelling, whenever the carriages halt at a fresh relay, it is his custom to alight, and employ the interval, though only five minutes, in exercise. In wet or damp weather, he never ventures abroad, not even in the carriage, without adopting the precaution of wearing galoches.

“In diet here, as in England, his Royal Highness observes a strict regimen,—plain roast or boiled mutton to dinner: such George the Third preferred. Sherry is his favourite, and, I may say, only wine. I never saw him taste Port; and seldom French or Rhenish wines. He rarely eats roots or vegetables, not even a

potato. The only beverage in which he indulges an innocent freedom, is barley-water flavoured with lemon."

While at Ems, the Duke was attacked by his periodical asthmatic complaint; of his conduct under which, Dr. Beattie gives this account.

"His Royal Highness, as a patient, takes freely whatever is prescribed, and with that measure of confidence which is always gratifying to the physician, and, in certain cases, contributes not a little to accelerate the cure. During his present illness, I am usually asked about what hour the medicine will take effect, and the attack subside. To such questions, the answer must be more or less hazardous—yet they must be answered. Last night, the spasm was protracted nearly an hour beyond the time predicted. 'Well, Doctor, you thought this fit would abate by nine o'clock; now, you observe, it is near ten. Well, well, it can't be helped.' This said, he became perfectly calm. The paroxysm abated so far, that he was able to retire to bed, and enjoy some hours of refreshing sleep."

On the 25th of June, the Doctor notes thus in his journal. "His Royal Highness's asthmatic attack is now over. It began on the 12th with the usual symptoms. Two days ago it gradually subsided, and to-day he walked out, and continues perfectly convalescent. The only thing to be feared, and which is rendered probable by the sultry state of the weather, is a relapse. During the fortnight, his Royal Highness has gone to bed every night at or before eleven o'clock, and in no instance was he obliged to get up before half past five. It would be difficult to say to what cause this remarkable mitigation of symptoms is to be attributed. In all probability, much benefit has accrued from change of diet, air, exercise, and situation.

“This has been the easiest attack his Royal Highness has experienced for four-and-twenty years. I have been seven nights on the watch ; not from any necessity suggested by the symptoms, but from a sense of the high responsibility of the situation in which I am placed. To attend a patient in London, where the first talent and experience of the day may be called to our assistance at a minute’s notice, affords confidence, and removes anxiety ; but to attend a similar case in Germany, where no such professional resources are open to us, is a duty of increased weight and consideration. Under these circumstances, I have been greatly assisted in the discharge of my duties, by that frank and gratifying confidence which his Royal Highness has deigned to repose in me. The confidence of his patient, is, in every case, of first-rate importance to the physician. In the former, it inspires hope ; and in the latter, it gives a two-fold efficacy to the salutary resources of his art.

“The right of interrogation has been duly exercised by his Royal Highness during the attack. When administering the different medicines suggested by the symptoms present, he has generally desired me to explain to him, ‘ why exhibited in this or that form ; how, why, and with what combined ; their nature, properties, and the indications they were intended to fulfil.’ These were questions, which, at times, I felt difficulty, often delicacy, in answering. To one of them he was pleased to add the following compliment :—‘ I will do you the justice to say, that, although a young physician, the medicines you have given me during my illness have fully answered the purpose intended. I have not got so easily over it for many years.’ ”

Soon after his recovery, in the middle of July, the

Duke went to visit the Queen of Wurtemberg at Deinaach, her summer residence in the Black Forest. In this tour occurred a pleasing incident, which is thus related by the journalist to whom we have been so much indebted for traits of character, and anecdotes of importance.

“On the heights of Mergentheim,” says the Doctor, “there is an isolated linden-tree by the road side—one of the forest out-posts, inviting the traveller to admire its stately growth, and, if he please, refresh himself under its shade. The morning was very hot, and the ascent from Mergentheim laborious. Halting at this point, to allow the postilion time to repair his harness and light a fresh pipe, his Royal Highness was so much struck with the landscape, that he alighted, had the luncheon spread upon the soft moss under the tree, and enjoyed at once a kingly repast and a kingly prospect. The former consisted of cold fowl, *gibier pique au lard*, a bottle of volnay, bread, and barley-water; the latter comprised towns, terraced hills, forests, flocks, vineyards, and their villages. At this elevated point, and after driving through the sultry and confined valley of Bichoffsheim, the air was peculiarly balmy and invigorating, and, so to speak, spiritual. His Royal Highness, during the journey, has repeatedly mentioned the agreeable surprise this halt at noon afforded him. The tree may one day, perhaps, obtain the flattering designation of ‘The King’s Tree.’”

The Queen Dowager was overjoyed at seeing her brother; and it became evident that the meeting, and the excursions which followed, had an exhilarating effect upon both of the illustrious personages.

“These early hours,” says Dr. Beattie, “in conjunc-

tion with daily exercise and the salubrious air in which that exercise is taken, have contributed most materially to benefit his Royal Highness's health. He is at this moment as vigorous as if he had not passed the age of forty. In proof of this, he has on various occasions been several hours a-foot, without experiencing any thing like exhaustion or even fatigue. At Meiningen and Ems, however, the facilities for pedestrian exercise were much greater than here, where, with a few exceptions, his Royal Highness's time is entirely devoted to the Queen. She is well entitled to it; and, in return, is ever planning something new for the entertainment of her brother, to whom she is greatly attached.

At the beginning of August, the Duke returned to Meiningen, where, on the 13th, being the birth-day of the Duchess, the same was celebrated by a fête, in which the peasantry had their full share of sports and pastimes. At this time, the Prussian military reviews, in the neighbourhood of Coblenz, brought together a great concourse of royal and noble personages from all parts of Germany. Among these, the principal were the King and princes of Prussia, the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia, the Grand Duke of Baden, the Dukes of Clarence, Cumberland, and Cambridge, with many other royal personages of different countries and degrees. The two Colonels Fitzclarence attracted particular notice by their soldier-like deportment.

When these military entertainments terminated, the Duke and Duchess of Clarence took leave of their German friends, and proceeded without delay to Antwerp, where the royal yacht was waiting for them; and on board of which a splendid dinner was given to the King of Prussia, the King and Queen of the Netherlands, and

a number of others, to the amount of one hundred persons of the first distinction.

The next morning, the royal yacht, towed by the Comet steamer, fell down the Scheldt to Flushing; and on the ensuing day got under weigh, with a fresh breeze at the north-west, for the Thames, which it was supposed they would enter in a few hours. The Flushing pilot, however, who studied the aspect of the heavens by the rule of experience, predicted a storm; and the augury was fulfilled. In less than two hours after leaving the Scheldt, the wind blew a hurricane, and the sea ran mountains high, insomuch that the steamer which had the yacht in tow could not hold, and the vessels separated. Upon this, the yacht bore away for Yarmouth Roads, which she fortunately reached the next day, and landed the royal party, who set off for London. Meanwhile, the Comet steered for the Downs, and, after narrowly escaping the Goodwin Sands, entered Ramsgate pier without any accident.

In the course of this year, the Duke of Clarence lost one of his old professional friends, and the public a most valuable character. This was the Right Honourable Admiral William Waldegrave, Lord Radstock. He entered the service so early, that at the age of eighteen he became a post-captain. In 1793, he was with Lord Hood at the taking possession of Toulon; and in 1797, he was vice-admiral under Sir John Jervis in the battle off St. Vincent. When that great commander was made a peer, Admiral Waldegrave was offered a baronetcy; which title he refused, as inferior to the rank he already had as the son of an earl. Upon this, he was created a peer of Ireland. Lord Radstock was a brave man, a genuine patriot, and a Christian in the purest sense of the

word. He was cut off suddenly by a stroke of apoplexy at the age of seventy-two.

On the 19th of November this year, died at Taganrock, in the south of Russia, in his forty-eighth year, the Emperor Alexander. His object in visiting that part of his dominions, was for the sake of his Imperial consort, whose state of health required a more temperate climate than that of the north. But, inscrutable are the ways of Providence—the empress profited by the change of air, and the emperor died of an ulcerated sore throat in that salubrious region.

The following letters from the widowed empress of Russia to the empress mother, exhibit not only the true feelings of nature in the amiable writer, but the character of the lamented object.

“Taganrock, Nov. 18, 1825.

“DEAR MOTHER,

“I was not in a state to write to you by the courier of yesterday. To-day, a thousand and a thousand thanks to the Supreme Being; there is decidedly a very great improvement in the health of the Emperor—of that angel of benevolence, in the midst of his sufferings. For whom should God manifest his infinite mercy, if not for him? Oh, my God, what moments of affliction have I passed! and you, dear mother—I can picture to myself your uneasiness. You receive the bulletins. You have, therefore, seen to what a state we were yesterday reduced—and still more last night; but Wylie (an English physician) to-day, says himself, that the state of our dear patient is satisfactory. He is exceedingly weak. Dear mother—I confess to you that I am not myself, and that I can say no more. Pray with us—with fifty millions of men—that God may deign to complete the cure of our beloved patient.

“ELIZABETH.”

The next day all these hopes were dashed in pieces, and the empress wrote as follows :

“ Nov. 19.—Our angel is gone to heaven, and I—I linger still on earth. Who could have thought that I, in my weak state of health, could ever have survived him? Do not you abandon me, mother, for I am absolutely alone in this world of care. Our dear deceased has resumed his air of benevolence; his smile proves to me that he is happy, and that he gazes on brighter objects than exist here below. My only consolation under this irreparable loss is, that I shall not long survive him : I hope soon to be re-united to him.

“ ELIZABETH.”

The Emperor Alexander married, in 1793, the princess Louisa of Baden Durlach; who, conformably to the rules of the Greek church, obtained a new name, that of Elizabeth Alexiena. This marriage produced two children, both of whom died in infancy. The throne descended to the Grand Duke Constantine, who soon after transferred his right to the present reigning emperor, Nicholas.

The empress dowager did not, as she herself had predicted, long survive her illustrious partner. On the 16th of May, 1826, she died at Beleff, in her way from Taganrock to Kaluga.

CHAPTER VI.

A. D. 1826 TO 1827.

ON Sunday the 21st of May, 1826, the Duke and Duchess of Clarence set out for the continent, and the next day landed at Calais, from whence they proceeded through Flanders to their former residence near the baths of Ems. This was at the beginning of June, and in the same month his Royal Highness had a very severe visitation from his old asthmatic disorder. "During this attack," says Dr. Beattie, "I have very seldom left him, even for an hour. I have watched, as on a former occasion, six nights in succession. I have seen him under the pressure of much personal suffering, exhausted by a series of spasmodic attacks, surprised by their sudden accession, or unexpected recurrence; but I have never seen him lose his temper, or self-possession. The perfect composure with which he waits the result, is a lesson in practical philosophy, which it is edifying to observe, and pleasing to commemorate."

On the conversational powers of his illustrious patron, the same gentleman has the following observations and anecdote.

"I am often surprised at the facility which his Royal Highness evinces in conversing upon a variety of topics, which might be thought entirely foreign to the natural channel of his thoughts and pursuits. I uniformly re-

mark, that with whomsoever he enters into conversation, he accommodates himself to the topic in which that individual is known, or supposed, to take most interest, and upon which he may be more easily drawn out. With the soldier he discusses the merits of the last campaign, or enters into a dissertation upon military tactics—with the senator, some popular question of the cabinets. With respect to one subject, wherewith the glory of England is so interwoven, I repeat the words of a distinguished admiral who dined here: ‘I am astonished,’ said he, ‘at the thorough knowledge which his Royal Highness retains of naval affairs ;—so minute, and laid down in such accurate detail, I was quite taken by surprise. I had often heard of the Duke’s excellent memory, but confess I was not prepared to find it exemplified by such instances as you heard to-day. I had, myself, hardly any distinct recollection of the lieutenant, but his Royal Highness remembers every officer of the ship ; and not their names only, but their family. This must be little less than forty-five years ago.’”

The naval officer, here alluded to, is supposed to have been Vice-admiral Wolley, who was the shipmate of Prince William on board the *Barfleur*, and enjoyed much of his Royal Highness’s confidence when on that station. The friendship then formed was renewed afterwards at Halifax, and ultimately continued in a frequent correspondence through life. At the time when the above conversation occurred, Admiral Wolley was settled at or near Brussels, where he died in the course of the same year. He left a widow with two sons and two daughters, in such narrow circumstances, that the Duke took the boys under his own immediate protection, and provided for

the rest of the family. The admiral, like many other brave men when retired from active life, became extremely nervous, and at times sadly depressed in spirits, so that it required the utmost energy of his royal friend to rouse him, by word and writing, from the despondency ; which gave pain to all who knew his worth.

What has been said of the epistolary intercourse of the Duke and his old associate, is illustrated by the following passage in the journal of Dr. Beattie.

“ On post-days, his Royal Highness generally employs from two to three hours in correspondence. The method of answering all letters by autograph is habitual, and always appears to afford him satisfaction. Upon my making some observation during his late attack, to induce him to limit his application on this head, his Royal Highness replied, ‘ I admit the propriety of your suggestion, but I must keep up the practice of letter-writing—I have always done so—and one day or other, I may have still more occasion for it.’ ”

Speaking of another characteristic feature of his illustrious patron, the Doctor says :

“ In expressing his opinion of men and things, the Duke is always frank and explicit. Whatever be the subject upon which he chooses to communicate his sentiments, they are invariably followed by a statement of the premises from which his conclusions are drawn. For example, ‘ This is my opinion ; and I’ll tell you why :’—or, ‘ There I differ from you ; and I will give you my reasons.’ ”

On the 10th of July, the royal party arrived at Schwalbach, after encountering a tremendous storm of thunder, lightning, and rain ; which flooded the roads, and nearly blinded the horses and their drivers. The horizon

was so darkened, and the wind increased to such a degree, that great fears were excited lest the carriages should be precipitated into the deep ravines which flanked the road in every direction. Fortunately, no accident occurred, and at Schwalbach their Royal Highnesses were welcomed by a party of minstrels, who had travelled one hundred and fifty miles from Meiningen, on purpose to greet their beloved princess.

After paying a short visit to the Duke and Duchess of Saxe Weimar, at their beautiful residence of Wilhelmsthal, the travellers proceeded, through very tempestuous weather, to Deinach, in the Black Forest; and thence, by a discursive route, to Constance. At Altingen, which the royal party did not reach till ten o'clock at night, much inconvenience was experienced, in the want of proper refreshment and accommodation.

“The lateness of our arrival,” says the journalist, “surprised the landlord and all his establishment in bed. After considerable parley, and abundant space to survey the premises externally, the door of hospitality opened, and we were ushered, by a half-accoutred hostler, into a large, solitary, and well-sanded apartment. A sort of rushlight, making darkness visible, glimmers in niggardly welcome at the extremity of a long deal table. Upon this our luggage is placed. There is nothing eatable in the house. That don't signify—the landlord assures us we shall have coffee in less than an hour. There was fine cold meat and sour krout, not more than three hours ago, but then it had been clean snapt up by some wayfaring wolves from Engen! There were also beds, and very much at our service; but at present they were all occupied by the same party! The diligence, however, will take them all off in a few minutes

past five o'clock, and then,'—'What then?' 'The said beds would be well seasoned, warm, and fit for their Excellencies.'—But if their Excellencies declined waiting till five, he had fresh hay, one empty room, besides the present, and three mattresses; 'would they prefer this?' 'Certainly.—Had he any wine?' 'Oh yes, he had wine.'—'What more?' 'Good black bread.'—'Anything else?' 'Coffee!'—That, of course; but had he nothing else substantial? 'Oh, yes; he had cheese, and potato-salad, and nothing more.'—The hay is brought, the mattresses spread, another light put on the table, and we are in hourly anticipation of the promised banquet."

Having completed the circuit of Wurtemberg, our travellers proceeded by the way of Ulm to Stuttgart, or the city of vineyards, and on the 17th of August alighted at the palace of Louisberg. On the 27th they returned to Meiningen, of whose prince we have the following character. His serene highness is exceedingly and deservedly popular among his subjects, whose loyal attachment to his person and government is conspicuous on every public occasion. Private acts of benevolence on the part of the sovereign are of frequent recurrence. To such young men of his subjects as evince any particular talent in the departments of art or science, his liberality is evinced in a degree suitable to the case. They are allowed a pension, and provided with other facilities for prosecuting their studies in foreign countries, by travelling and observation. These liberalities are continued for such a period as shall enable them to return proficient to their native country. In grateful acknowledgment of this paternal interest in their advancement, the painter, or architect, on his return from

Italy, devotes the first-fruits of his study to the embellishment of his native city, or the gallery of his excellent sovereign.

The Duke of Clarence and his family having now spent four months in visiting their friends, and making several excursions throughout Germany, prepared for their return to England. On the 11th of September, they left Altenstein, for the purpose of visiting the Landgrave of Hesse Rothenbourg at Wildeck. Here, we are told, a considerable number of French emigrants found shelter during the long and eventful period of the revolution. The generous disposition of the prince was exerted to the utmost on their behalf; and those whom he could not restore to their country, he admitted to his society, and supported by his bounty. Among other peculiarities, his serene highness had at this time upwards of three hundred parrots, comprising every known variety of the species; or, at least, all that could be procured from different countries, and capable of being reared in a climate to which they were not used.

On the 23d the royal party reached Coblenz, after a fatiguing journey, but especially so to the attendants, among whom accidents were of very frequent occurrence. In all such cases, the conduct of the Duke was unremitting kindness to the sufferers, and an anxious concern, by personal attention, to every means for their recovery and comfort.

On the 26th, the travellers arrived at Namur; where every thing was in order for their reception, an estafette having the day before been despatched for that purpose. The dinner was ready to be served, the lights were burning on the table, the cellar had sent forth its best, and the host and hostess stood with candles in

their hands to receive the illustrious strangers. It was no small addition to the entertainment, to observe the cheerful faces that surrounded the table, all eager to anticipate the wishes of their noble guests. From time to time the mistress of the hotel looked in, to observe whether every dish was in its proper place, and if such and such other delicacies were relished by their Royal Highnesses. Every time the door opened, a curious face seized the opportunity to obtain a cautious, but most gratifying, peep of the table."

In their way, the next morning, from Namur to Brussels, the royal travellers spent some time at Quatre Bras, La Belle Alliance, and Waterloo. At the former, the spot was pointed out where the Duke of Brunswick so gloriously fell. At the second, the monuments along the road were observed with deep interest and sympathy. The reminiscences of the guide set the events of the battle minutely in view. The position of the British and French armies—the stations of the rival commanders—the scenes of the sanguinary combats—the decisive charges of the Life Guards and Scotch Greys—the spot where Picton fell—with numerous other localities—were particularly noticed, and excited indescribable sensations.

The church of Waterloo, the interior of which is cased with marble records of British heroes, is a shrine of more than ordinary solemnity. Among the officers personally known to his Royal Highness, and in whose praise he spoke at the time, the name of Colonel Fitzgerald of the Life Guards was particularly remarked.

This long and last continental tour terminated at Calais, on the 30th of September, without any serious mischance; and on the following day, the royal party and their suite landed safe at Dover.

As every circumstance illustrative of character is of importance, it will interest the reader to learn the order of travelling pursued by the Duke of Clarence on these journeys.

“On alighting at the hotel at night,” says Dr. Beattie, “it was the rule to make every arrangement for the expedition of the party *en route*, and their comfortable reception at the inn the following day.

“To secure these important objects, I wrote a letter to the master of the hotel, where their Royal Highnesses proposed to dine and sleep the night ensuing. This letter contained a statement of the number of the suite, arrangements for the first, second, and third apartments, chambers, and beds. The dinner ordered for each table was restricted to a fixed price; that of wines, and apartments for the night, was left to the discretion of the landlord. To these particulars was added the hour at which the party would take the road in the morning; so that the landlord could calculate the exact time at which, barring accidents, his welcome visitors would honour his table.

“Charged with these instructions, the letter was addressed and sealed, and on the back the following order, in French or German:—‘The postmasters having authority on the route from A to B, are hereby required to furnish twelve post-horses at each station, for the expedition of his Excellency, Count de Munster, and suite, in three carriages. His Excellency will leave this hotel to-morrow morning at seven o’clock precisely.’—This done, I took the letter to the post-office, had it countersigned by the postmaster, received his acknowledgment, saw it expedited by estafette, and felt no further anxiety for the result.

“In the morning, the horses were at the door by the hour appointed; the postilions mounted, the leader sounded a flourish on his bugle, and drove off. Fresh relays turned out at every station, as the carriages came in sight, or were announced by the bugles of the postilions. On arriving at the hotel, every thing was found in readiness, as had been ordered; the apartments swept, aired, and garnished for the occasion, and the dinner ready to be served.

“This quiet and unostentatious way of travelling adopted by their Royal Highnesses, afforded them so much satisfaction in respect to comfort and expedition, that it was invariably employed on all occasions. On alighting at Calais, the Duke, in alluding to this circumstance, ‘felt persuaded,’ he said, ‘that, in these extensive journeys, he had never been delayed ten minutes on the road by want of horses.’”

In winding up this miscellaneous chapter of private and personal history, it may be as well to bring together some insulated circumstances and notes, which either have been passed over inadvertently, or could not properly find a place in the order of the narrative. Instances of royal urbanity and condescension, benevolence and attention, to menials and domestics, have already been adduced, upon the first authority. The following, which cannot fail of contributing to the reader’s amusement, is here given in the words of Dr. Beattie.

“His Royal Highness’s liberality and indulgence are proverbial among the household, and I often observe both exemplified in an equally pleasing and striking manner.

“‘I think,’ said he to me yesterday morning—‘indeed I see, that J—— feels solitary and uncomfortable here ;

he wants something to amuse, something to occupy his mind. What do you think can be done for him? He is an old and faithful servant. There's a fine stream—do you think he could amuse himself in fishing?' I thought he might. 'Well then, as you are going to Coblenz, you may bring him a fishing-rod, and see what that will do.' The fishing-rod was bought accordingly, and will, I have no doubt, form an heir-loom in Mr. J's family.

"To-day I had the pleasure of knowing that it has already proved a very pleasing remedy for the *ennui* or *nostalgia* that manifested itself; and my worthy friend has already communicated the important notification, that he has this afternoon had 'three glorious nibbles' in less than the same number of hours.

"There are few traits of character that gain more readily upon our esteem, than those which manifest themselves in the just appreciation and requital of faithful services. The former, his Royal Highness is ever ready to acknowledge; and the latter he is equally disposed to confer, when that is in his power. I have heard him regret his inability to comply with the request of his private friends and dependents; but I have never known him, by word or letter, dismiss an application which it was in his power to entertain. With these dispositions, it is to be hoped that his Royal Highness may one day enjoy a wider sphere for their exercise, and means better proportioned for carrying into effect the suggestions of a noble and generous nature.

"Should it ever happen that he is called to the throne of his ancestors, an event which, from a knowledge of his constitution, and the hourly observation of his salutary habits of life, I think extremely probable, there

could be no doubt of his becoming a deservedly popular monarch. He has no expensive habits—no passion for the mere gratification of empty display. His taste directs him to what is solid and lasting, not to what is frivolous or ephemeral. He is not subject to gusts of passion, nor biassed in his actions by peevish or splotic resentment. His speech and conduct seem equally under the influence of matured judgment and long established principles.

“In his domestic circle, he is uniform, cheerful, and communicative; abroad he is accessible, affable, and accommodating; neither affecting a lofty demeanour, nor descending below that standard of royal dignity, which, if forgotten by him, would teach others to forget. He does not, as it is commonly expressed, put himself on a par with the individual with whom he converses; on the contrary, he raises that individual, for the moment, to a par with himself, waves unnecessary forms and distinctions, and shows a desire that the manner may be neither embarrassed, nor the free expression of sentiment impeded, by the external ensigns of rank, or the appendages of royalty. In this, or in something nearly akin to this, consists the true ‘principles of politeness’—the art of the perfect gentleman.”

To his illustrious partner, whose many and exalted virtues he so duly appreciated, no man could possibly have evinced more delicate and uniform attentions than his Royal Highness. There are not, perhaps, of the present day, two personages, of similar station, in whom the virtues of domestic life are more pleasingly exemplified. With those excellent qualities of mind and heart, so eminently possessed by the royal Duchess, it is not surprising that she should have won and re-

tained the esteem and affection of her illustrious consort. His mind was fully alive to their vital importance as regarded his present happiness, and to the influence they must exercise over his future prospects.

We shall close this chapter with an interesting account of the celebration of the birth-day of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Clarence.

A few minutes before two o'clock, an elegant and select party sat down to dinner in the banquet-hall of Altenstein. On one side of the table were eighteen princes and princesses of the country; and in the present instance, all nearly or remotely connected with the reigning family.

The band was stationed in the ante-room, and, during the repast, continued to enliven the scene with the choicest music of the day. In due order, the health of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Clarence was proposed, when the company immediately rose, and, bowing in expressive silence to her Royal Highness, emptied the glass of champagne. The band then struck up with increased effect the anthem, "God save the King." The health of his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence was next proposed, and couched in the following delicate and ingenious terms:—

"The eternal union of the Thames and the Werra! Upon their united tide may the navy of England ever ride triumphant!" This was drunk with great enthusiasm, and again followed by the national air.

As it was intended to conclude the day at Liebenstein, where great preparations were made for the purpose, the company rose from table soon after dinner, and the whole set off, to animate the expecting crowds with their presence.

On alighting at the villa, the Duchess was met by a deputation of peasant girls holding in their hands some fresh garlands, with which they gracefully proceeded to decorate her neck and shoulders. Her Royal Highness received this delicate expression of their affectionate attachment in the most amiable manner, and with words that went to the hearts of those gentle priestesses of the Saxon Flora. The smile of complacency, and the cordial affability with which she received this little deputation from the fairest of her brother's people, will long maintain a place in their affectionate hearts. Nothing could have been more unaffected and impressive than this little simple ceremony, which a variety of circumstances rendered still more interesting.

These innocent villagers accompanied the offering with a song, of which Dr. Beattie has given the following version :

Oh ! let our simple garland bind thee
 Flowerets from thy native tree,
 Though rustic hands the pledge have twined thee,
 'Tis our HEARTS that welcome THEE !
 This garland, to thine eye appealing,
 Speaks thy country's cherish'd feeling,
 And the welcome wreaths we twine,
 Are forest flowers of Altenstein,

ADELAIDE.

Flowers upon thy path we scatter
 With lowly hand, but spirit true ;
 THOU wilt not despise the latter,
 Nurtur'd where thy virtues grew !
 Thy welcome every voice is greeting,
 Thy welcome every lisp repeating :
 Music wakes its sweetest tone,
 To bid thee welcome to thine own,

ADELAIDE.

'Mid those mountains memory gathers
 Many a glorious deed of eld !—
 Vale and forest, where thy FATHERS
 The sceptre and the cross upheld !
 Welcome to the scenes of youth !
 To hearts of love and lips of truth !
 All hail, and hark, from rock and stream,
 Echo answers to our theme,

ADELAIDE.

Hail, DAUGHTER of a house of heroes,
 Wielding sceptre, sword, and pen !
 Whose guardian spirits hovering near us,
 Watch the weal of MEININGEN !
 Peace be thine, where'er thou art—
 Health on cheek, and joy at heart !
 And in thine own adopted far-land
 Many—many a birthday garland,

ADELAIDE.

As this was a fête that could not often be celebrated under the same happy concurrence of circumstances—the immediate presence of the illustrious princess in whose honour it was given—it was hailed with additional interest, and produced more than ordinary eclat. To welcome the return of her Royal Highness to Saxony—to carry their felicitations in person to the scene enlivened by her appearance, and that of her august consort—were circumstances too flattering to be of annual recurrence, and too tempting to be neglected by any one within a day's journey of Liebenstein.

CHAPTER VII.

A. D. 1827 TO 1829.

THE lamented death of the Duke of York on the 5th of January, 1827, placed his next brother in a new position, as heir presumptive to the throne. Soon after the funeral, at which his Royal Highness attended as chief mourner, a message from the King was delivered to each house of parliament, recommending an additional provision for the Duke and Duchess of Clarence. The proposal of ministers for an increase of three thousand a year to the Duke, and of a jointure of six thousand to the Duchess, was acceded to, but not without opposition from an insignificant minority. This object had scarcely been effected, when a sudden change in the government brought the royal Duke forward still more conspicuously to public view.

It is remarkable, that the last appearance of the Earl of Liverpool in the House of Lords was on the 16th of February, when he introduced the motion just mentioned. His lordship retired to rest at his usual hour, the same night, and on the following morning he breakfasted alone in his library, and at the same hour received the post-letters. Some time elapsed—and the servant, not hearing his master's bell, entered the room, where he found his lordship stretched on the floor, motionless, and speechless. Medical aid was called in, when it appeared that the earl had been seized by a fit of

apoplexy and paralysis, which affected the whole of his right side. As soon as his situation would admit, he was removed to Coombe Wood, his seat near Kingston, where he remained in the same melancholy state till the 4th of December, in the following year, when death put an end to his misery.

The incapacity of the Earl of Liverpool to resume office being put beyond all doubt, it became evident that a new premier must be appointed, and it was of course expected that a successor would be chosen from among his colleagues. Some weeks, however, were suffered to elapse, before any thing like a final arrangement took place. At length, on the 11th of April, Mr. Canning received the commands of the King to form an administration, of which he, as the first lord of the treasury, was to be the head. Upon this, Mr. Canning addressed letters to each of his colleagues, apprising them of the commission he had received, and expressing his wish that the public service might continue to profit by their talents and experience. The answers returned were so very cold and reserved, that it was obvious a general dissatisfaction prevailed among the members of the late cabinet, at the conduct of Mr. Canning in this proceeding. Several resignations, in consequence, immediately followed ; but it was not till the 24th of the same month, that all the appointments were completed.

One of the most striking novelties in this administration was, that of setting the Duke of Clarence at the head of the marine department, with the revived title of Lord High Admiral, after that dignity had lain dormant, and the duties of the office been discharged by commission, for the space of one hundred and twenty-seven years.

The last person that enjoyed this elevated rank previous to the nomination of the royal Duke, was Thomas Earl of Pembroke, who succeeded Prince George of Denmark, the husband of Queen Anne, in 1708, but was dispossessed in less than two years, when the office was put in commission. The predecessor of the prince was James, Duke of York, who continued to hold the title of lord high admiral of England, even after his accession to the throne, and till his abdication at the Revolution. On the present occasion, instead of the customary board of junior lords, there was a council appointed, to assist the Lord High Admiral, consisting of four members ; Sir William Johnstone Hope, Sir George Cockburn, William Robert Keith Douglas, Esq., and John Evelyn Denison, Esq.

What advantage the minister had in view, by this departure from the old practice, he never condescended to explain ; and, what appeared still more extraordinary, no reason was ever given for excluding the Duke of Clarence from the cabinet, where the first lord of the admiralty had always a seat ; and that very properly, as the only responsible officer, in the direction of one of the most important departments of the public service.

Immediately after taking this situation, his Royal Highness gave notice of his intention to hold regular levees, for the reception of all naval officers bearing commissions. He also introduced some alterations in the uniforms, and new regulations respecting the appointment of commanders in ships of the line.

While thus occupied, the royal Duke became associated with several public institutions for the advancement of science and virtue ; such as the Royal Society, the Botanical Society, and the Society for the Promotion

of Christian Knowledge. At the anniversary dinner of the latter society, held on the 22nd of May, his Royal Highness presided, and gave great satisfaction to the meeting by his politeness, but particularly by the following address :

“Whether the declaration I am about to make be popular or unpopular, I think it right, in reference to the peculiar character of this meeting, to assert, at this time, that to the sound and strict principles of the Church of England, I am unalterably attached—and that it will be, at all times, and under all circumstances, my first desire and duty to maintain those principles.”

On the prorogation of parliament at the beginning of July, the Duke of Clarence made a professional excursion along the southern and western coasts, for the purpose of inspecting the state of the outports and naval arsenals. His Royal Highness went by water, on board the Royal Sovereign yacht ; but the Duchess, having no inclination to an aquatic tour, followed by land, paying visits to several of the nobility whose seats lay in the way. At Portsmouth, the Lord High Admiral, after inspecting the ships in ordinary, and reviewing the royal marines, accepted an invitation from the mayor and corporate body to dine with them in their hall, where about one hundred and thirty persons, among whom was Earl Spencer, sat down to table. At this entertainment, the Duke desired Mr. Selwyn, the recorder, to give his compliments to Chief Justice Best, now Lord Wynford, then one of the judges on the circuit, and desire him, when he had a touch of the gout, to remember his Royal Highness, and their early acquaintance.

From Portsmouth, the illustrious party proceeded to Plymouth ; the Duke in the yacht, and his consort

through Salisbury, Honiton, and Exeter. Here also several fêtes were given in honour of the royal visitors by the municipal authorities, and the officers of the army and navy. After remaining a week at Devonport, the Lord High Admiral in the yacht went round the Land's End to Milford; while the Duchess went across the country to Ilfracombe, on the northern coast of Devon, where she embarked in a steam-packet, to join his Royal Highness in Wales.

While here, the Duke received the melancholy tidings of the death of his attached friend, The Right Hon. George Canning, on the 8th of August, at Chiswick, the seat of the Duke of Devonshire. Upon this intelligence, their Royal Highnesses set off without delay for town; and on the 16th, the Dukes of Clarence and Sussex attended the funeral of the departed minister in Westminster Abbey; where they supported the chief mourner, Mr. Charles Canning—the Lord High Admiral on the right, and his brother on the left.

On the death of Mr. Canning, Viscount Goderich became first lord of the treasury, and Mr. Herries succeeded the deceased minister in the office of chancellor of the exchequer. Few other changes, however, took place; and the Duke of Clarence still retained his situation at the board of admiralty, but without any share in the cabinet councils.

In the course of this summer, the Queen of Wurtemberg re-visited her native land; but the pleasure which her arrival afforded, after an absence of above thirty years, was damped by the occasion of her coming, which was to seek for relief under an incurable disease. The stay of her majesty was very short; and on the fifth of October in the following year, she expired at her

chateau of Louisburg, to the great sorrow of her people, by whom she was commonly called "The good Queen."

A writer who knew her well, and had witnessed her benevolent acts, gave this testimony to her character.

"The mode of life pursued by her majesty was invariable and systematic. During the summer she had usually concluded her morning toilet by six, often much earlier. She appeared in public at one o'clock, received the homage of her court, and that of the strangers or functionaries, who had the *entré* to her table.

"The activity of her mind was incessant; her hands were seldom without some adequate subject for the display of a refined and cultivated taste, or the exercise of that laudable industry, which, to her, had become delightful from long habit, and of which innumerable traces remain, as the finest ornaments of the royal palace. In this, her majesty sought not pastime alone; she had a higher object in view. She aimed to inculcate on those around, by personal example, this most important lesson—that in the proper distribution of our time, and the wise employment of our faculties, the great secret of human happiness is to be found—that, instead of pursuing pleasure as an occupation, we should find, that from prudent occupation alone, we can secure lasting pleasure and satisfaction.

"The natural affability of her majesty's disposition; the enviable talent of relieving the restraint, and enlivening the conversation, which her presence might have been supposed to impose, or to check, made a presentation at the court of Louisburg an object of first importance. Few days during the summer, but some illustrious family or individual was presented by the resident ambassador, and found a place at her hospitable table. Of these

strangers, the majority were public functionaries, or the fair daughters of that beloved country, the land of her birth, and proud inheritance of her royal brother. On the cherished remembrance of early days, her mind and conversation dwelt with peculiar delight. The sentiments she expressed, well became a daughter of the illustrious dynasty from which she sprang, and that crown and kingdom of which she had become the pride and the ornament. Her name, embalmed by those exalted virtues which added so much lustre to her life and her reign, will find a ready passport to the love and veneration of posterity. The days of her life were so many acts of beneficence. She supported the aged, and patronized the young; every hour had its allotted portion of evil to correct, or of good to communicate."

Let us now return to the regular train of narrative.

The grand civic entertainment given on the ninth of November, 1827, at the inauguration of Alderman Lucas into the office of lord mayor this year, was honoured by the presence of the Lord High Admiral; who, however, narrowly escaped suffering a severe injury in the midst of the feast. By way of respect to the illustrious guest, a splendid illumination of variegated lamps, disposed in the form of an anchor, was placed over that end of the room where his Royal Highness sat, next to the lady mayoress. This splendid pageant, consisting of a large and heavy frame-work of wood, not being properly secured, gave way, and fell to the floor with a tremendous crash; but no other damage ensued than that of inflicting a slight bruise upon the Duke, spoiling some elegant dresses, and frightening the ladies.

The day after this accident, the royal Admiral was highly gratified by receiving from Sir Edward Cod-

ington a letter, containing the particulars of the defeat of the Turko-Egyptian fleet, in the bay of Navarino, by the combined English, French, and Russian squadrons, on the 20th of the preceding month.

Into the details of this brilliant victory, it is unnecessary to enter; but though it threw additional glory upon the naval character of Britain, the circumstance, considered politically, involved the cabinet in some difficulty. At the time when this sanguinary combat took place, an amicable connexion between this country and the Porte subsisted; nor had any thing occurred to disturb the friendly relation, till the great Christian powers interposed, on the principles of humanity, in behalf of the Greeks, who were struggling for the recovery of their long-lost independence.

The interference of the allied powers, only served to inflame the malignant passions of the Ottomans; especially when terms were proposed to the sultan, which, in the true spirit of a ferocious despot, he regarded as injurious to his dignity. At first, the Turkish potentate talked loudly of his determination to reject all overtures of mediation. The infidels, he said, were his subjects, and, being in a state of insurrection against lawful authority, he had a right to consider them as rebels, and as such he would treat them, without being dictated to by any foreign state whatever.

At length, however, this haughty tone was lowered, and the divan consulted; when the negotiations, that had been suspended, were renewed. Meanwhile, Ibrahim Pacha, with an Egyptian fleet, entered Navarino, and landed a large body of Turkish troops, who committed dreadful atrocities upon the defenceless inhabitants of the Morea. Upon this, the English and French admirals

came off that port, and had an interview with Ibrahim, the result of which was, a promise, on his part, that no further outrages should be committed by the forces, and that he would not remove with his ships till he received instructions from Constantinople. Both pledges were violated. The Turkish-Egyptian admiral made an effort to elude the vigilance of the combined fleets, and to escape from Navarino to Patras; which design being prevented, he landed the troops, and wreaked his vengeance upon the miserable Greeks, desolating their country with fire and sword. The allied commanders, Sir Edward Codrington, the French admiral De Rigny, and the Russian Admiral Heyden, then agreed, on the 18th of October, to take a position in the port of Navarino, for the purpose of renewing and enforcing the treaty. On entering the bay, and coming to an anchor near the Turks, a fire was opened upon some of the flags of truce, in consequence of which, a general action ensued, and the whole armament of the aggressor was destroyed.

When the intelligence of this affair reached the ambassadors of the allied powers at Constantinople, on the last day of October, the first step they took was to hold a consultation upon the proper steps to be pursued in such an emergency. As they were ignorant whether the government had yet received any account of the disaster, their embarrassment was increased, and they could come to no resolution on that day. They therefore postponed their deliberations till the following morning; and while thus engaged, they were surprised by a message from the Reis Effendi, desiring the attendance of an interpreter from each embassy. On their appearance, the minister told them that a report was in circulation

of an unpleasant nature respecting a naval conflict at Navarino. The interpreters admitted that such an affair had occurred, but that it was occasioned by the imprudence of the Turkish commander; in proof of which, they read extracts from the letters received by all the ambassadors.

At this critical juncture, news arrived that Fabvier, a French officer, and Lord Cochrane, had made a landing on the Isle of Scio, and compelled the pacha to retire with his troops into the fort. This intelligence coming so inopportunately upon the former, heightened the resentment of the divan; nor could all the representations of the ambassadors remove the impression, that both events were connected and preconcerted. In this angry feeling, the ministers of the allied powers were informed, that all intercourse between their several courts and the Porte must cease, till satisfaction should be given for these wrongs, and a total cessation from all interference with the affairs of Greece be consented to by them and their subjects. With these terms the ambassadors refused to comply, and at the beginning of December they all three quitted Constantinople.

It cannot be denied that this was a case altogether of great perplexity, and one that might have been attended with very serious consequences, had the Ottoman government possessed power enough to have supported its demands. Even as it was, the circumstances tended to weaken that influence which England had long enjoyed in Turkey, and which was so beneficial to the interests of commerce. On this account, the King, in his speech at the opening of parliament on the 29th of January, mentioned the "conflict at Navarino with the naval force of an ancient ally, as an untoward event."

Without attempting either to justify or condemn this unexpected occurrence, an event, that might truly have been termed "untoward," introduced the new year. This was, the landing of Don Miguel at Greenwich, in his route to Portugal, of which kingdom he was appointed lieutenant by his brother, Don Pedro, emperor of the Brazils. To do honour to this branch of a family, with whom England had for a long period preserved an alliance, the Lord High Admiral went down to receive his Highness, and conduct him to town in state.

During his stay, he resided at the house of Earl Dudley in Arlington Street, which his lordship gave up for his use. Here the prince held several levees, and gave audiences to foreign ambassadors and ministers. He was twice sumptuously entertained at the Admiralty by the Duke of Clarence; and, after visiting the King at Windsor, he proceeded to Plymouth, where, on Sunday the 20th of January, he embarked for Lisbon in a Portuguese frigate. The rest of the history of this personage is too well known to merit any observation on his character.

Among the other circumstances of a remarkable nature which distinguished the commencement of the new year, that of summoning the parliament to meet on the 29th of January, attracted particular notice, as being the anniversary of the King's accession, and of course a religious festival, with an appropriate liturgical service. Notwithstanding this, there was an unusual assemblage of members in each house, occasioned by the intense anxiety which another change of the ministry had excited, and the appointment of the Duke of Wellington to the situation of first lord of the treasury. Instead, however, of that explanation which was the principal object of

general expectation, respecting the causes of these revolutionary movements in the councils, the debates at the opening of the session turned upon the recent occurrences in Greece, and the difference produced by it between the allied powers and the Porte. The usual addresses, however, were carried, and an adjournment took place.

The King was at this time confined to his room by a severe access of gout, brought on, it is said, by having neglected his usual medicinal precautions and regimen, in order to be present at the fête given to Don Miguel. Thus, by a high stretch of compliment to an object totally unworthy of the distinction, England was in danger of losing her own sovereign; and though the apprehended disaster did not then occur, it is certain that the King suffered more from this than from any previous attack. The disorder was further aggravated by the divisions in the cabinet, the secession of Lord Goderich, and the necessity of holding frequent councils in the royal chamber, while the afflicted monarch was obliged to decide upon conflicting opinions in bed. Notwithstanding this, and the continued seclusion of the royal patient at Windsor, a profound silence respecting his actual condition was maintained by the physicians in attendance, during the whole period of his confinement, which lasted some weeks.

Of the parliamentary business in this session, the first, and, considered as prelude to other changes, the most important measure, was the repeal of the test and corporation acts. It does not appear that the Duke of Clarence took any part in this proceeding, but the motion was vigorously opposed by the Duke of Cumberland, and as strenuously defended by his brother of Sussex.

On the 27th of May, the Duchess of Clarence

embarked at Woolwich to meet her mother at Calais, and accompany her Serene Highness to England. The Duchess of Meiningen spent the summer here with great satisfaction to herself, and to her illustrious relatives. During her stay, several excursions were made to various places in the interior of the country, and along the coast as far as Plymouth. Among other entertainments, the Lord High Admiral gave, on the 18th of June, a very splendid regatta on the Thames, in commemoration of the battle of Waterloo. For this purpose, the lord mayor granted the use of the city navigation barge, which was moored off Waterloo Bridge. At an early hour, four of the city barges were brought up the river, and thus stationed: the lord mayor's on the right of the Navigation barge, the Merchant Taylor's on the left; the Vintners' on the right of the head, and the Drapers' on the left: the men belonging to them appeared in their respective uniforms; and the barges displayed various elegant standards. The whole were under the direction of Captain Woolmer of the navy; and the arrangements were similar to those adopted at Venice on such occasions. Nothing of the kind had occurred in this country since the reign of Charles the Second. The Navigation barge was chosen on account of its size, being one hundred and forty-six feet long, and nineteen wide on the deck, which was entirely covered with an awning—the royal standard hoisted at the mast head, a union jack at the bow, and the city flag at the stern.

At about half past two o'clock, the Duke and Duchess of Clarence, the Duke of Sussex, the Princess Augusta, the Duchess of Gloucester, the Princess Sophia Matilda, and the Duchess of Saxe Meiningen arrived; being soon

followed by Prince Leopold. Their Royal Highnesses were received by bands of music stationed in separate barges ; and at the same time there was a discharge of cannon from the Lambeth shore.

At half past four, the Duke of Wellington arrived, accompanied by Lord Arthur Hill ; and the approach of his grace was hailed by loud cheers from the crowds which thronged the shores, while the bands in the barges struck up, "See the conquering hero comes." The Duke went on board the barge belonging to the company of Merchant Taylors ; from whence he was conducted by Captain Spencer, secretary to the Lord High Admiral, to His Royal Highness, in the grand cabin of the Navigation barge.

At about half-past five, the entertainment ended ; the Duke and Duchess of Clarence, with the Duchess of Meiningen, taking their departure in the William and Mary yacht boat, and the rest of the royal family in the Admiralty barge.

The Duke of Wellington set off soon after in a six-oar'd cutter, rowed by as many young noblemen, who set the hero of Waterloo on shore at Whitehall Stairs ; the amateur boatmen taking off their hats when his grace landed. It was seven o'clock before the entire company, consisting of nearly five hundred persons of the first distinction, departed.

In the month of September following, the Duke of Clarence resigned the situation of Lord High Admiral, and that office was once more put into commission, Viscount Melville being again placed at the head of the board. Many reports were circulated to account for this change, which came upon the public by surprise, and excited considerable indignation against the new

ministry, particularly among the members of the naval profession, who had, little more than a year before, rejoiced at the dismissal of Lord Melville, as a change that promised to be equally beneficial to their individual interests, and the public service. By some it was said that differences between the royal Admiral and the Duke of Wellington, in regard to the promotion of naval officers, were carried to such a length, that, as neither of the high-minded personages would concede, the resignation of one or the other became indispensable.

In this dilemma, the King, whatever might be his own opinion or inclination, could hardly be said to have any choice. The dissolution of the administration was not to be thought of; and therefore, to avoid that consequence, the marine department was restored to its former state. Upon this, the Duke of Clarence, now reduced to a private life, removed with his family from the Admiralty to his house in the Stable Yard of St. James's Palace. Shortly after this, the Duchess of Meiningen left the English capital on her return to Germany, being accompanied to the place of embarkation by her illustrious relatives; when the parting was most affecting on both sides.

The departure of this excellent princess was succeeded by the landing of another royal lady on the British shore—the young Queen of Portugal, Donna Maria de Gloria, daughter of Don Pedro, Emperor of Brazil. She was proceeding to Genoa, with the intention of going from thence to Vienna, when the commander of the Brazilian frigate, and the persons who were entrusted with the care of the princess, apprised of the usurpation of Don Miguel, deemed it imprudent to proceed up the Mediterranean, but, after touching at Gibraltar, altered

their course, and set sail for England, where the royal stranger landed on the 24th of September.

Her reception here was such as might be expected from a nation that had ever been distinguished by sympathetic feeling for the oppressed and afflicted. But though the King and the people concurred in paying the young queen all the honours due to her rank, and all the attentions which her tender age and circumstances required, it was observed with concern, that the ministry were less favourably disposed to acknowledge her title than that of the usurper.

This was very extraordinary, for, as a public writer justly observed, "The rights of the young queen to the throne of Portugal were incontestable on every principle of legitimacy; they had been admitted by the Portuguese nation; they had been recognized by every court of Europe; they had even been repeatedly sworn to by the man who then usurped them; and the absence from Lisbon of the representatives of all the powers which acknowledged her majesty's title, shewed the light in which the usurper was still viewed."

CHAPTER VIII.

A. D. 1829 TO 1830.

ON the 5th of February, 1829, parliament was opened by commission, when the speech delivered in the name of the sovereign, after noticing the general state of Europe, and particularly the war then going on between Russia and the Porte, concluded with recommending to the two houses, to "take into their deliberate consideration the whole condition of Ireland, and review the laws which imposed civil disabilities on his Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects; to consider also, whether the removal of these disabilities might be effected consistently with the full and permanent security of our establishments in church and state, with the maintenance of the reformed religion established by law, and of the rights and privileges of the bishops and of the clergy of this realm, and of the churches committed to their charge. These are institutions (it was observed) which must ever be held sacred in this Protestant kingdom, and which it is the duty and the determination of his Majesty to preserve inviolate."

Thus, what was denominated Catholic emancipation had become, after many arduous struggles during twenty-five years, a cabinet question; and the King was reduced to the mortifying necessity of proposing from the throne, a measure which, it was well known, he personally disapproved.

The immediate consequence of this extraordinary change in his Majesty's councils was, universal agitation throughout the kingdom. Both houses of parliament were inundated with petitions from all parts against granting further concessions to the Catholics. The presenting of these petitions gave rise, day after day, to long discussions on the policy of the measure. In one of these debates, on the 23d of February, the Marquis of Londonderry, after expressing his warm approbation of the conduct of ministers, observed, "It was, however, a most extraordinary thing, that this great object was about to be carried by those who had so long opposed it. He quarreled not with those who had formerly been hostile to the Catholic question; he merely looked forward with joy and satisfaction to the great result. When they talked of the sacrifices which this man or that man might make, he confessed that he thought there was only one individual who could be said to have made sacrifices—and that was the individual who could not tender his resignation. If that individual took the course which he conscientiously believed to be necessary for securing the happiness of one part of the empire, he would be adored in that country hereafter; and he would be described in her annals, as having achieved her salvation. In the quarter to which he alluded, he believed, there was a strong feeling in favour of the Irish people; and if the measure to be proposed by ministers received the royal assent, and became a law, it would excite feelings of gratitude from one end of Ireland to the other. His Majesty would be handed down to posterity as the first sovereign who had ever, in his speech from the throne, recommended to Parliament the cause of the Roman Catholics of Ireland."

When the Marquis of Londonderry had concluded his speech, the Duke of Clarence drew the attention of the house.

His Royal Highness began with saying, that he rose in consequence of an expression that had fallen from his noble friend who had just sat down. His noble friend had said, that his Majesty's ministers were unanimous on this question, and that those who had been generally opposed to it, had become its advocates. It was this observation which called on him to address their lordships on this occasion, which was nearly connected with the internal state of Ireland, rather than in the petitions of those who appeared to know little or nothing about the situation of that country. It was remarked by his noble friend, that his Majesty's ministers were now unanimous on a question relative to which they were hitherto divided. He wished to God that his Majesty's ministers had been unanimous on that question long ago; or, he rather wished, that an united administration could have been formed in 1804, for the purpose of carrying this measure, for, from that hour to the present, his opinion had invariably been, that what was falsely called concession, ought to have been resorted to. He said "falsely called concession," because he maintained that what was asked for, was not concession; it was merely an act of justice, to raise the Roman Catholics from their present state of degradation. It was that, and nothing more. And when an act was passed for that purpose, he would pledge his life, that it would have the effect of uniting and quieting eight millions of his Majesty's subjects. Now he was on his legs, he would state his opinions as shortly as he could, reserving to himself the right to support the noble duke and his colleagues, when he saw them so unjustly and infamously attacked. If his Majesty's ministers, fortunately for the good of their sovereign and of their country, were at length united with reference to a measure of such great consequence, he did, from the bottom of his heart, thank the noble duke for having effected such an union; and he would support, as he ought, a measure which he most deeply and decidedly believed to be favourable to the best interests of the country. For forty years he had enjoyed the honour of a seat in that house, and during that time, he trusted in God that he had never given a vote at which he need blush; but unquestionably he never had given a vote with so much pleasure and satisfaction as he should feel in supporting the contemplated measure. He congratulated all Europe on his Majesty's conduct, in recom-

mending this subject to the consideration of parliament. He did so, because every man who had common sense must see that the settlement of this question would be beneficial to the interests of England; and he would maintain, that the interests of Europe were closely connected with the interests and prosperity of England. Every thing which operated to the preservation and security of British interests, operated also to the benefit of the general interests of Europe. He looked upon the measure which was about to be proposed, as one of the most important for this country, that could possibly be conceived. He was happy that the noble duke was selected by his Majesty to effect this great object. He rejoiced to find him placed in his present situation; and so long as he acted as his colleagues had hitherto done, so long should the noble duke, and his Majesty's ministers, have his hearty vote. When he thought it was right to tender his resignation, which his Majesty was graciously pleased to accept, he, in the only conversation he ever had with the noble and learned lord on the woolsack, (Lyndhurst,) told him that he never would join in a factious opposition to ministers, but that on the contrary, he should feel it to be his bounden duty to give them his support, when their measures appeared to be calculated for the benefit of the empire; and he trusted that no action of his had belied the declaration. Nothing but the absolute conviction of the important crisis at which the country had arrived, and a strong desire to support the administration, could have induced him to come forward on this occasion. The noble duke and his colleagues had acted openly, boldly, firmly, and valiantly, and he thought it but an act of justice, thus publicly before God and man, to declare his sentiments with respect to their conduct. Professionally educated as he had been, it had fallen to his lot to have visited Ireland; and he should be the most ungrateful of men, if he forgot the reception he had there met with. During all his experience, he could bear testimony to the character, the energy, the bravery, and the thorough good humour, of Irishmen. If the venerable Duncan, who gained immortal fame by his victorious action with the Dutch, but who had served his country more by the energy and discipline with which he kept his fleet at sea at the time of the mutiny at the Nore, were in existence—if Earl St. Vincent, whose blockade of Cadiz reflected the highest honour on him, were living—or if one, who was more dear to him than any other officer in the service, he meant the great Nelson, the hero of Trafalgar, were in being—would they not hold up their heads in admiration, and say, that the dawn of peace, and happiness, and tranquillity in Ireland, had arrived; that justice was, at length,

about to be done to the country of those men who had been fighting the battles of the empire on the lower decks of the ships which they commanded? Sure he was, that the service of the Irish Catholics could not be forgotten by the Duke of Wellington—that their bravery, valour, and devotion, in fighting the battles of this country, could never leave his recollection; and their deeds must have been present to his mind, when he advised his sovereign, with so much honour to himself, and with such advantage to the empire, graciously to recommend their claims to the serious consideration of the legislature. For his own part, his Royal Highness said, that he had differed with the noble duke on one particular occasion, but that this difference should never alter his opinion as to what he had already done, or as to the great service which he was now rendering to his sovereign and the state. He recollected all the achievements of the noble duke, and the victories which he had won for his country from the period when he led on the first battalion at the storming of Seringapatam, down to the glorious day of Waterloo—that day, which for a length of time had closed the horoscope of Europe. The noble duke was a soldier; and when he bore in mind the regiments which fought under his command, he must consider that he was now only discharging a debt of gratitude which, as a soldier, he owed to those brave and gallant men, who had achieved his victories, and contributed to raise him to his present exalted situation. The noble Duke had brought forward the question when he possessed the full power to carry it—it was recommended in the speech from the throne; and it was announced at length from such high authority, that the thing could be done with perfect safety to the country; and it was his firm conviction, that it could be so done, not only consistently with the safety of the country, but to its future security and advantage. At present he had no more to say, but he trusted he had said enough to convince their lordships and the country, that he seriously intended to give his cordial support to those just measures of relief in favour of his Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects. He should have, perhaps, a great deal more to say, when the subject came fully and regularly before their lordships. It was a question which he had long turned in his mind, and which he believed he had considered in every direction, and under every point of view in which it could possibly be considered; and his settled opinion on the subject, for many years, was that to which he had now given utterance. Here, it might be asked, if such had been his opinion, why had he not stated it earlier, in some of the numerous discussions which had taken place on the question? In answer he could simply reply, because the

measure had not been made a government measure. He felt no hesitation in calling on their lordships to look to his public conduct during the forty years that he had enjoyed the honour of a seat in that house; and he would ask any of them to point to any part of that conduct of which he should be ashamed. If he had erred at any time, he was sure that it would be conceded to him, he had erred with honour. He was ready to go through all the events of his public life, from the first time he mingled in public affairs; and he was willing to submit his conduct to the most rigid examination. He had commenced his early career on the benches of the opposition. After the year 1807, this was the third time that he had troubled their lordships with his opinions on a public occasion. When it pleased the Almighty to render it necessary for the present sovereign of these realms to assume the office of Regent, he (the Duke of Clarence) formed a resolution, that although he should not be satisfied with every thing that might occur, he would thenceforth give his support to his Majesty's ministers. To that resolution, he had hitherto adhered. On the Catholic question, he had always maintained the same opinion; but he did not come forward actively and openly to support the measure, not only because he said his Majesty's cabinet unfortunately divided upon it, but also because he saw that the measure itself was every year making way, and gaining new ground, and that it was every year acquiring such consequence, that the time was not far distant, when ministers would be compelled to make up their minds upon it; and he reserved the declaration of his own opinion until that period should have, as happily it now had, arrived. He thought it better and more befitting on his part to act thus, than to make that government, which was at all times arduous and difficult, still more difficult, by giving to it his opposition. Entertaining that opinion, he had acted accordingly. The noble duke at the head of affairs would recollect, his Royal Highness said, that he had expressed to him opinions similar to those which he had just delivered, at the period that he was removed from the high office which some time since he had the honour to fill. In a conversation which he then had with the noble duke, he expressed his sorrow that Catholic concession was still to be resisted, and that the government should continue divided in opinion upon that question, which, above all other questions, was one that involved the interests and safety of the country. He added, at the same time, that while such differences in the cabinet existed, the measure should not have his support; but still it was his opinion, that it ought to be carried. Thank God, the day had at length arrived for the carrying of this great and

healing measure of liberality and justice.—He was not in the secrets of the cabinet, but he trusted that whatever measure might be introduced, it would be found much less objectionable than was now supposed, particularly by the right reverend lords on the bench opposite. He trusted that before the measure was brought under their consideration, those right reverend prelates would seriously deliberate, duly weigh, and anxiously consider, in what way they ought to act—that they would keep in mind they were the ministers of peace—that they would consider whether the situation of Great Britain, which must and would be influenced by this important event—whether the situation of this country, and that of Europe at large, was not such, as, that different events, upon which none could calculate, might, at no distant day, be productive of war—that they would seriously ask themselves whether their persevering opposition to the claims of their Catholic countrymen, might not hasten such a crisis, or produce far worse, a civil war at home; and in such a case, how would they then dare to call themselves the ministers of peace? Let the right reverend prelates duly weigh these considerations, before they determined on opposing his Majesty's ministers. The royal Duke said, he would again repeat, that he knew not the exact nature of the measure which was to be introduced. It was sufficient for him, that the intention of bringing it forward had been announced; and he thanked his God that the measure of justice was at length about to be carried into effect, which would purify and tranquillize that dear, generous, and aggrieved country, whose rights had been so long withheld.

Some expressions in this speech, reflecting strongly upon the opponents of the proposed measures, produced an altercation between his Royal Highness and the Duke of Cumberland, who defended himself from the imputation of being actuated by factious motives, in his resistance to ministers: on this subject the Duke of Clarence replied, and pledged himself to support the measure throughout; but being seized with his old complaint, he was prevented from taking any further part in the debates; and in consequence of this indisposition, he was unable to attend the levee and drawing-room held by the King, after the bill had received the royal assent on the 13th of April.

Thus did the Duke of Wellington effectually complete a measure, which neither Pitt, Grenville, Fox, Grey, nor Canning could accomplish. On taking a retrospective view of this question, it appears that in 1805, a majority of one hundred and twenty-nine in the House of Lords, and of two hundred and twelve in the Commons, refused even to entertain the petition of the Catholics, which was introduced by Lord Grenville and Mr. Fox. In 1807, Earl Grey, then Lord Howick, endeavoured to gain the object by a side wind, but was defeated by the sagacity of the King. In 1808, Mr. Grattan's motion was rejected by a majority of one hundred and fifty-three ; and Lord Donoughmore's in the upper house, by a majority of eighty-seven. In 1810, the same members were again unsuccessful on a similar motion, by a majority of one hundred and twelve in the Commons, and eighty-six in the Lords. In 1812, they were once more defeated by a majority of seventy-two in the Lords, and eighty-five in the Commons. Mr. Canning was also defeated, in the same year, by a majority of one hundred and twenty-nine in the lower house, and the Marquis of Wellesley in the Lords by a majority of one. In 1813, Mr. Grattan and Sir John Cox Hoppesley were defeated in separate motions. In 1821, Mr. since Lord Plunkett, carried the bill through the House of Commons by a majority of nineteen, but it was lost in the Lords by a majority of thirty-nine. In 1822, Mr. Canning carried it by a majority of twenty-one, but it was thrown out in the Lords by a majority of forty-two. In 1825, Sir Francis Burdett carried it in the Commons by twenty-seven votes ; but it was rejected in the Lords by a majority of forty-eight. In 1827, Sir Francis's motion for a committee was lost by a majority of three. In 1828,

the motion for a conference with the Lords was carried in the Commons by a majority of six, but lost in the upper house by forty-five. But in 1829, a bill, unqualified in its character, and unshackled by restriction, was carried through the Commons, by Mr. Peel, with a majority of one hundred and eighty on the second reading, and one hundred and seventy-eight on the third: and through the Lords, by the Duke of Wellington, with a majority of one hundred and five on the second reading, and one hundred and four on the third.

A change so sudden in the opinions of certain members of both houses, who had hitherto been the staunchest opponents of the Catholic claims, astonished the world; and few could bring themselves to believe, that these right honourable, honourable, and right reverend personages acted upon conviction.

When the intelligence that the Catholic Emancipation Bill had been carried as a government measure, and obtained the royal assent, reached Rome, it was received with unbounded joy, which was expressed by a *Te Deum*, illuminations, and *fêtes-champêtres*.

On the 24th of June, the parliament was closed by commission; and the speech, delivered in the name of the sovereign, concluded thus:

“My Lords and Gentlemen.—His Majesty has commanded us to express his sincere hope, that the important measures which have been adopted by Parliament in the course of the present session, may tend, under the blessing of Divine Providence, to establish the tranquillity, and improve the condition, of Ireland; and that, by strengthening the bonds of union between the several parts of this great empire, they may consolidate and augment its power, and promote the happiness of his people.”

CHAPTER IX.

A.D. 1830.

IN the opening speech to parliament, on the 24th of February, 1830, the King, by his commissioners, expressed the satisfaction he felt at the conclusion of the war between Russia and the Porte. His Majesty further stated, that having recently concerted with his allies, measures for the pacification and final settlement of Greece, he trusted to be soon enabled to communicate the particulars of this arrangement, with such information as would explain the course that had been pursued throughout the progress of these important transactions.

The independence of Greece being now secured by the concession of the Turkish government, the next consideration was the choice of a sovereign for that country. After some delay, Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg was offered the new crown, which he accepted, and every preparation was made for his departure to Greece, where his presence could not be more eagerly expected by the people, than it had become urgently necessary for the general good. When, however, the terms of the settlement were brought to a close, and nothing appeared to prevent the carrying the whole into effect for the benefit of the Greeks, the public was surprised, on the 24th of May, by the communication of the Earl of Aberdeen, secretary of state for foreign affairs, to the House of Lords, that Prince Leopold had declined the proffered

crown of Greece. "From the 20th of February until within the last few days," his lordship said, "the delay in the prince's acceptance of the sceptre of Greece had been occasioned by pecuniary demands, which had at last been assented to; but on the 21st of the present month, his lordship had received an intimation from his Royal Highness, of his determination to relinquish the throne which he had so recently accepted."

To what cause this sudden revolution of sentiment was to be ascribed, could only be conjectured; but a clue to it was furnished on the same day, by the message presented from the King, informing Parliament that as it was inconvenient and painful to his Majesty, in consequence of severe indisposition, to sign public documents with his own hand, He recommended to Parliament the adoption of such measures as would give effect to such instruments without his signature, during his present illness.

This application produced an immediate act to supply the existing necessity, which at once evinced the dangerous state of the King, and explained the reason why Prince Leopold might now think his own presence more necessary in England than in Greece. Be the latter as it may, whatever hopes of the royal recovery had been previously entertained, they were dissipated by this legislative measure for the exercise of an indispensable function of the monarchy.

It was now evident, that the real state of the King had been carefully concealed from the public, and that his illness, from the beginning, was of a much more serious nature than the medical attendants chose to report. The first bulletin, announcing his Majesty's indisposition, was issued on the 13th of April; it stated that his

Majesty had suffered under a bilious attack, accompanied by a difficulty of breathing. No immediate alarm, however, was excited by this report, nor yet by the official postponement of the intended drawing-room, in honour of his Majesty's birthday, from the 23d of that month to the 7th of May. In the interim, the official accounts, though very cautiously drawn up, were insufficient to allay the fears of the public; that the real situation of the royal patient was one of imminent danger; which the indefinite adjournment of the customary ceremonials at court too plainly confirmed.

Every day increased the apprehension that there was a general breaking-up of the system; and the brief and guarded language of the medical reports only served to prepare the public for a fatal termination of the complaint with which his Majesty was afflicted. On the nature of that complaint, there were various rumours and surmises. Inflammation of the chest, gout in the stomach, dropsy, ossification of the heart, bile and asthma, were all brought in formidable array, as the host of enemies combined to destroy a constitution which, though naturally strong in itself, had certainly suffered by the irregularities of early life. For some years his Majesty had been subject to spasmodic affections, and periodical visits of the gout. These attacks in the preceding year were very frequent, and when the winter, which was a particularly severe one, advanced, symptoms of a dropsical character appeared, which were increased by the confinement of the King at Windsor Lodge, and the want of his usual daily exercise in the park. Still he preserved his wonted flow of spirits, gave directions respecting the improvements then in progress at the castle, looked forward to the celebration of his nominal

natal day with confidence, and transacted public business as long as he could bear the fatigue of attending to official details and explanations. His mental faculties, instead of being impaired by the accumulation of bodily disease, seemed to have acquired new power; and his memory, which had always been remarkably retentive, appeared to have lost nothing of its tenacity. Even when labouring under great pain and debility, he endeavoured to conceal his suffering, that he might avoid distressing the feelings of those around him; while to his chosen friends he assumed a forced semblance of cheerfulness, with the same kind and benevolent intention.

Throughout his long protracted illness, though the attendants in the royal chamber could not but observe how much the King inwardly endured, not a word of impatience or querulousness escaped his lips: and when, about the middle of June, the physicians felt it their duty to intimate that the power of medicine was at an end, the announcement drew from the illustrious patient the calm reply, "God's will be done."

The remedies that were still administered had for their object the alleviation of pain, and the procuring of sleep, but with no idea of arresting the progress of the malady. The cough, which latterly became more harassing, appeared to be occasioned by the impeded flow of blood through the left side of the heart, in consequence of which, it was thrown back upon the lungs, so as to produce congestion. Considerable portions of the lungs were consolidated, from the previous attacks of inflammation; and hence any additional affection increased the difficulty with which the respiratory organs performed their functions.

On Friday, the 25th of June, the physicians, perceiving that the royal patient was sinking rapidly, sent off instant notice, by express, to the Duke of Wellington. That night, his Majesty had some intervals of sleep ; but about three o'clock on Saturday morning, the attendant was startled by the sudden rising up of the King from his pillow, with an exclamation indicating acute pain. A violent fit of coughing succeeded ; and while he was in the arms of the physician, he ejaculated, "O God! I am dying." In a few minutes after, he faintly said, "This is death ;" and expired.

Thus terminated, in the sixty-eighth year of his age, the reign of GEORGE THE FOURTH, after a period of actual sovereignty, including the regency, of near twenty years ; during which Britain attained the summit of political greatness, and was distinguished, above all other nations, for the splendour of her establishments, the extent of her commerce, and the glory of her arms.

The history of this eventful reign was truly a long triumph, unparalleled in the English annals ; and the most prejudiced of those who have rigorously reviewed the character of the man, have not dared to deny the claim of the monarch to national gratitude. George the Fourth, at his entrance upon the functions of government, found Europe involved in a general war ; he left it in a state of universal peace, and that peace obtained by the wisdom of his councils, and the vigour of his measures. If, when Prince of Wales, the late King exposed himself to public reflection, by the levity of his conduct, and the impropriety of his connexions ; he, like Henry the Fifth, made ample amends for those errors, on being called to the seat of authority. Notwithstanding this change, certain it is, that George the Fourth was much

more popular as a prince, while in the pursuit of pleasure, than when discharging the duties of his high station as a sovereign.

One reason for this might be, that experience having taught him the vanity of public applause, he no longer thought it worth while to court it by the display of his personal appearance. It has been justly observed, that there is much of the character of the Roman people in the English nation; they are unbounded in their gratitude, lavish in their rewards, profuse in the honours which they bestow on the objects of their regard; but that their favour is often gained before any claim to it has been honestly established. Hence the idol of the day may be frivolous or worthless, while the character that has merited distinction is despised and neglected. Great services are soon forgotten; and it is well indeed, if the man who has performed them is suffered to pass on to the end of life in tranquil repose. Sterling virtue, and exalted talent, are often branded with the most opprobrious epithets, and held up to public scorn, whenever factious and unprincipled demagogues, for their own base ends, shall judge it convenient to raise the outcry.

Of this versatility of popular favour, the late King had full experience; and hence, probably, it was, that, in the latter period of his life, when infirmities increased with age, he passed his time in greater retirement than is acceptable to the people of England. His secluded cottage in Windsor Park was his principal residence. And although vast sums were expended in repairing the castle, and also in erecting a new metropolitan palace, he only partially occupied the one, and never took possession of the other. He, likewise, seldom met Parliament in person, very rarely held courts, and scarcely ever

honoured the theatres with his presence. The chief recreation in which he indulged, was the solitary one of angling on the fine lake of Virginia Water, covering an extent of near one thousand acres within the precincts of Windsor Park. For his rides he made use of a pony phaeton, which he drove himself; but always chose the least frequented parts, and a servant went before to see that the way was clear.

In elegant accomplishments, George the Fourth has been rarely equalled; in personal graces, never excelled. His mind was highly cultivated. His benevolence was proverbial; and thousands have drank of the streams of his bounty, and been supported. His charity was real, and unmingled with ostentation. His manners were perfect. He was gentle, and easy of access; good-humoured and affable in conversation. His religious opinions were liberal; and his attention to the duties of devotion, regular and becoming. He was lively and agreeable in society, cheerful and warm-hearted at home. As a King, his name will live, in history, among the few who have deserved a nation's prayers and blessings, who have governed with fatherly affection and wise guardianship. Some of the triumphs of his reign rose out of circumstances; others may be attributed to the spirit of the times: but that spirit he fostered; those circumstances he directed for the general good. His share in the public business was more than kings in general take: the choice and support of his ministers was not the only qualification he displayed to govern wisely. His own views were always acted on; for though his ministers were truly the responsible advisers of the crown, they were not the crown itself. The advance of civil and religious liberty during the

reign of George the Fourth, will be one of the greatest glories of his era, and will shine with a pure lustre, equalled only by the brightest rays in the history of his predecessors. The King's devotion to the arts twines itself with the national history, but particularly with that of the city of London. The improvements wrought in the metropolis during this period are of the most extraordinary description; insomuch that it may be said of the late monarch, as it was of Augustus, that "he found his capital brick, and left it marble."

On Wednesday, the 14th of July, the royal remains lay in state, in the great drawing-room of Windsor Castle, which apartment, as well as the chambers leading to it, and the grand staircase, was hung with black cloth, and lined by Gentlemen Pensioners and Yeomen of the Guard. The royal body, covered with a purple velvet pall, adorned with escutcheons of the royal arms, and having the imperial crown of the United Kingdom, and the royal crown of Hanover, thereon, was placed under a canopy of the same colour; beneath which, and over the coffin, was suspended the royal standard; various banners being arranged on each side.

At eight o'clock on Thursday evening, the 15th, his late Majesty, as chief mourner, took his seat at the head of the corpse, in a long purple cloak, and wearing the collars of the order of the Garter, that of St. Patrick, and of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic order. At nine o'clock, the procession moved through the state apartment, down the great staircase, and along the platform to St. George's Chapel, where King William took his seat in a chair of state, at the head of the corpse, the supporters standing on each side. The first part of the funeral office and anthem being performed, the body was

lowered into the vault, and the remainder of the service was read ; at the conclusion of which, Garter Principal King at Arms pronounced, near the grave, the usual proclamation, in these words :—

“ Thus it hath pleased Almighty God to take out of this transitory life, unto his Divine Mercy, the late Most High, Most Mighty, and Most Excellent Monarch, **GEORGE THE FOURTH**, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and Sovereign of the Most Noble Order of the Garter ; King of Hanover, and Duke of Brunswick and Lunenberg. Let us humbly beseech Almighty God to bless and preserve with long life, health and honour, and all worldly happiness, the Most High, Most Mighty, and Most Excellent Monarch, our Sovereign Lord, **WILLIAM THE FOURTH**, now, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and Sovereign of the Most Noble Order of the Garter ; King of Hanover, and Duke of Brunswick and Lunenberg. **GOD SAVE KING WILLIAM THE FOURTH !**”

When the chapel was cleared both of the funeral cortege and spectators, the illustrious chief mourner returned to the Castle, but his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland descended into the royal vault, to witness the performance of the last sad arrangements ; and, remaining there upwards of an hour and a half, saw the mausoleum of his royal house closed for a season, and the masonry at the entrance replaced.

BOOK THE SIXTH.

ACCESSION OF WILLIAM THE FOURTH.

CHAPTER I.

1830.

WHEN intelligence of the royal demise was communicated to ministers, the Duke of Wellington proceeded to Windsor Castle, and, having given the necessary instructions, left for Bushy Park, to state the painful event to the Duke of Clarence, then King William IV., and to do homage to the new sovereign of this mighty empire. Before his grace's arrival, however, the melancholy tidings had been made known at Bushy by Sir Henry Halford, who was the first that kissed King William's hand on his accession to the throne.

The King shortly after followed the Duke of Wellington to London, and about one o'clock entered the state-room at St. James's Palace, where the members of the late King's Privy Council were assembled: before whom he made the following declaration:—

“ I am convinced that you will fully participate in the affliction which I am suffering on account of the loss of a Sovereign, under whose auspices, as Regent and as King, this country has maintained, during war, its ancient reputation and glory; has enjoyed a long period of happiness and internal peace; and has possessed the friendship, respect, and confidence of foreign powers.

“ In addition to that loss which I sustain in common with you, and with all who lived under the government of a most beneficent and gracious King, I have to lament the death of a beloved and affectionate Brother, with whom I have lived from my earliest years in terms of the most cordial and uninterrupted friendship, and to whose favour and kindness I have been most deeply indebted.

“ After having passed my life in the service of my country, and having, I trust, uniformly acted as the most faithful subject and servant of the King, I am now called upon, under the dispensation of Almighty God, to administer the government of this great empire. I am fully sensible of the difficulties which I have to encounter; but I possess the advantage of having witnessed the conduct of my revered Father, and my lamented and beloved Brother; and I rely with confidence upon the advice and assistance of Parliament, and upon its zealous co-operation, in my anxious endeavours, under the blessing of the Divine Providence, to maintain the reformed religion established by law, to protect the rights and liberties, and to promote the prosperity and happiness, of all classes of my people.”

While reading this address, King William was deeply affected, and the feeling he manifested extended itself to the other members of the Royal Family who surrounded the throne. The Lord Chancellor administered to the King three oaths:—the first, to govern this kingdom according to its laws and customs; another was, for the security of the Church of Scotland; he also signed two instruments, one of which was to be transmitted to the Court of Session, entered in the books of the *Sederunt*, and afterwards lodged in the Public Register of Scotland: the other to remain amongst the records of the Council.

By the King's direction, the two stamps for attaching the signature of the late Monarch, were ordered to be destroyed; the judges, chief officers of state, of the household, and others whose places were vacated on a demise of the crown, were re-appointed, and the ministers of George IV. retained in office. The King, who was dressed in an admi-

ral's uniform, being again seated on the throne, received the congratulations of the Lord Mayor, who was accompanied by Sir Peter Laurie, and other aldermen, together with the Recorder and city officers, whose duty it was to attend the deputation from the city of London.

At 10 o'clock on the morning of the 28th of June, the firing of a double royal salute at the Park and Tower, announced the commencement of the ceremony of proclaiming William IV. In a few minutes, and before the roaring of the artillery had ceased, the window of the presence chamber was thrown open, and the King came forward alone, habited in a suit of mourning, and wearing the Order of the Garter. His appearance was hailed with the loudest acclamations; which he acknowledged, by bowing three times to the dense crowd assembled in the palace-yard.

Garter King at Arms (Sir George Naylor,) having taken his station immediately underneath the window at which the King stood, read the proclamation announcing the decease of George IV., and accession of his illustrious brother.

The weather being extremely favourable, an immense concourse assembled around the palace, and choaked up every avenue to the palace gates. The police, in their exertion to maintain order and prevent accident, had cleared the palace-yard, during a momentary absence of the King from the window; but on his re-appearance, perceiving what had been done, he instantly caused the gates to be thrown up, and the people to be allowed to take up their positions as before. This act of condescension and kindness was responded to by three cheers for the "Sailor King," and "Long live King William."

The proclamation read on the occasion was as follows:—

"WHEREAS it has pleased Almighty God to call to his mercy our late Sovereign Lord King George the Fourth, of

blessed memory, by whose decease the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland is solely and rightfully come to the High and Mighty Prince William, Duke of Clarence; we, therefore, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of this Realm, being here assisted by those of His late Majesty's Privy Council, with numbers of other principal gentlemen of quality, with the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of London, do now hereby, with one voice and consent of tongue and heart, publish and proclaim, that the High and Mighty Prince William, Duke of Clarence, is now, by the death of the late Sovereign, of happy memory, become our only lawful and rightful liege Lord, WILLIAM the FOURTH, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and so forth; to whom we acknowledge all faith and constant obedience, with all humble and hearty affection, beseeching God, by whom Kings and Queens do reign, to bless our Royal Prince WILLIAM the FOURTH with long and happy years, to reign over us. GOD SAVE THE KING."

The procession now moved forward, amidst the roaring of cannon, the ringing of bells, and the shouts of the multitude collected in all the line of passage, to Charing Cross, where a halt was made, and the proclamation repeated. It is not easy to conceive an idea of the imposing spectacle displayed at this widely-extended area. The streets and avenues branching from it were filled, as far as the eye could reach, by a dense population, intermingled with coaches and vehicles of every description; while the houses, from the basement to the roof, were covered with persons elegantly attired, anxious to offer the tribute of a cheer to the passing pageant.

From Charing Cross, the cavalcade moved slowly on to Temple Bar, where, the usual custom of knocking at the gates for admission, in the King's name, being observed, the procession passed through to the corner of Chancery Lane, where the proclamation was read the third time. The next halt was at the corner of Wood-street, Cheapside, where the cross formerly stood; and the ceremonial having

been repeated there, the heralds proceeded to Cornhill; and, having proclaimed the King in front of the Royal Exchange, concluded their offices at Aldgate.

The procession was splendid without being gorgeous or extravagant. The assemblage attracted by it was immense; the Strand, from Charing Cross to Temple Bar, presented the appearance of a sea of heads: and it may with truth be asserted, that no public ceremony, for half a century preceding, had been attended with more distinguished marks of interest and enthusiasm.

On the following day, (29th) the Duke of Wellington in the upper, and Sir Robert Peel in the lower house of parliament, delivered the following message from the Crown:—

“ WILLIAM R.

“ The King feels assured, that the House entertains a just sense of the loss which his Majesty and the country have sustained in the death of his Majesty's lamented brother, the late King; and that the House sympathizes with his Majesty in the deep affliction in which his Majesty is plunged by this mournful event. The King, taking into his serious consideration the advanced period of the session, and the state of public business, feels unwilling to recommend the introduction of any new matter, which, by its postponement, would tend to the detriment of the public service. His Majesty has adverted to the provisions of the law, which decree the termination of parliament within an early period after the demise of the crown; and his Majesty being of opinion that it will be most conducive to the general convenience, and to the public interests of the country, to call, with as little delay as possible, a new parliament, his Majesty recommends to the House to make such temporary provisions as may be requisite for the public service in the interval that may elapse between the close of the present session and the meeting of another parliament.”

The Duke of Wellington, after passing a warm eulogium on the character of George IV., as the most polished and enlightened monarch of his time, expressed his conviction

of their lordships' sympathy with the new monarch in sentiments of sorrow: to the latter part of the message, he thought it more becoming to postpone all allusion then. His grace concluded by moving—

“ That an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to assure him that we fully participate in the severe affliction his Majesty was suffering on account of the loss he had sustained in the death of the late King, his Majesty's brother, of blessed and glorious memory ; that we shall ever remember, with affectionate gratitude, that our late sovereign, under circumstances of unexampled difficulty, maintained the ancient glory of this country in war, and, during a period of long duration, secured to his people the inestimable blessing of internal concord and external peace ; to offer to his Majesty our humble and heartfelt congratulations on his Majesty's accession to the throne ; to assure his Majesty of our loyal devotion to his sacred person ; and to express an entire confidence, founded on our experience of his Majesty's beneficent character, that, animated by sincere love for the country, which he had served from his earliest years, he will, under the favour of Divine Providence, direct all his efforts to the maintenance of the reformed religion established by law ; to the protection of the rights and liberties, and to the advancement of the happiness and prosperity, of all classes of his Majesty's faithful people.”

This address, as well as a corresponding one, moved by Sir Robert Peel in the lower house of parliament, passed unanimously. But, on the 30th, when the Duke of Wellington moved a second address, relative to the dissolution of parliament, an amendment was moved by Earl Grey, on the ground that it was necessary to consider the expediency of providing a regency in case of the demise of the crown. After considerable debate, the house divided, when the motion of Earl Grey was negatived by a majority of 44.

The addresses, therefore, being carried up to the throne, the King returned the following answer:—

“ W. R. I have received with satisfaction the dutiful and affectionate address of the House of Lords. The expression of

your condolence with me on the lamented death of his late Majesty, is highly gratifying to my feelings. I thank you for your congratulation on my accession to the throne, and for the assurance you have given me of every support in *my determination to uphold the Protestant reformed religion* as established by law, and to maintain the *rights and liberties* of all my subjects."

A similar message was communicated to the House of Commons.

On Saturday, the 3rd of July, his late Majesty held his first court at St. James's, when a vast number of public functionaries, foreign ministers, and nobility, attended, to pay their respects to the new sovereign. Among others who appeared in the splendid circle, was the Viscount Combermere, who had but recently returned from India, bringing with him, as a present to the late King, a picture of the Sultan of Delhi, his three sons, and grandson, highly finished and elegantly adorned. His lordship was also the bearer of a letter from the same monarch to the King of England, contained in a purse of gold.

On Sunday, his Majesty came to town from Bushy-Park, to attend divine service at the Chapel Royal. After a sermon, preached by the Bishop of London, the King received the sacrament, accompanied by several dignitaries of the church, and members of the royal family. At the conclusion of the solemnity, his Majesty received the archbishops and bishops in the royal closet, and professed to them his *unalterable attachment to the Protestant religion, and determined resolution to support the established church of England*. The Archbishop of Canterbury, in a short speech, on behalf of himself and his brethren, made a suitable reply.

On the same day his Majesty received the judges in the great council chamber of the palace, and complimented them on their upright administration of law and justice.

Lord Tenterden, chief justice of the king's bench, returned thanks, in the name of all his learned brothers, for the good opinion which the King had been pleased to express of their conduct.

After the royal funeral, on the 15th, their Majesties slept at Windsor; and the next day the King, accompanied by the Duke of Wellington and Lord Farnborough, went over the whole establishment—gave orders for its future management—conversed with the domestics on the length of their respective services—and threw out such hints of retrenchment, especially in the culinary department, as excited considerable alarm among some of the domestic officers.

The same day, the dean and chapter of Windsor attended at the Castle, with an address of condolence and congratulation. On this occasion, the King, observing Dr. Keat, master of Eton school, among the canons, said, “Dr. Keat, I have to beg it as a favour, that you will indulge your boys with an additional week's holiday at this season.” The preceptor bowed assent, and thus the scholars gained a fortnight's relaxation from their academic exercises, instead of the ordinary allowance.

Early on the morning of the 17th, his Majesty set off for St. James's palace, to receive, on the throne, the address of the lord mayor, aldermen, and corporation of the city of London. On the 19th, the King inspected the Coldstream regiment of Guards, in St. James's park; after which he held a chapter of the most noble Order of the Thistle, for the purpose of investing the Duke of Sussex with the insignia. This ceremony being concluded, the deputations of the universities of Oxford and Cambridge were introduced, successively, with their addresses, which, as usual, were received on the throne. After the learned members

had kissed hands, and were retiring, the King surprised them, by desiring them to remain till they had been introduced to the Queen. Soon after, her Majesty appeared, took possession of the throne, and the academical deputation obtained the honour of kissing the Queen's hand, as they had before that of her august consort. This was an unprecedented circumstance, and occasioned much agreeable surprise.

On the 20th, the King, accompanied by her Majesty, inspected the 1st and 2d battalions of the 3d Guards. After the troops had gone through the customary manœuvres, the officers were separately presented to his Majesty, and kissed hands.

After the review was terminated, their Majesties, with a numerous train, proceeded to visit the exhibition of the Royal Academy, then held at Somerset House, where they remained above two hours.

The next day, the (21st) his Majesty, with the Queen, inspected the two regiments of Life Guards in the Regent's Park; after which they breakfasted at Apsley House, with the Duke of Wellington. From thence the royal party returned to the palace, where the King held his first regular levee since his accession. Among the eminent persons then presented, were the two newly-created field-m Marshals, Sir Alured Clarke, and Sir Samuel Hulse: the former attracted general notice, by his athletic appearance, and the firmness with which he approached the throne, though he had passed the age of fourscore years and ten, above seventy of which had been spent in active service.

At the same time, his Majesty was pleased to confer the honour of knighthood on Martin Archer Shee, Esq., president of the Royal Academy, and James South, Esq., one of the first astronomers of the age. To Mr. Shee, the King,

on his last visit to the Royal Academy, gave an assurance of taking the arts under his immediate patronage; and, therefore, desired him to state in what manner efficient aid could be best applied for that purpose.

The royal favour to Mr. South was only the fulfilment of what had been intended by his late Majesty, as appears from the following letter of Sir Robert Peel:—

“ Whitehall, July 10th.

“ DEAR SIR,—The demise of his late Majesty, and the extraordinary press of public and parliamentary business, have compelled me to defer a communication, which I should otherwise have made to you at an earlier period.

“ Shortly before the death of the late King, his Majesty signified to me his intention (if he should recover from the severe illness by which he was then afflicted) of taking the first opportunity of marking his high sense of your honourable and disinterested zeal in the cause of science, and especially of your unwearied and successful exertions to perfect and increase our knowledge of the position, distances, and relations of the heavenly bodies.

“ The King commands me to inform you, that he shall have great satisfaction in confirming the intentions of his lamented brother, and in bestowing some mark of royal favour upon one who has rendered such signal service to practical navigators.

“ His Majesty desires, therefore, that you will attend at the levee, either on the 21st or 28th of this month; on which occasion his Majesty proposes to confer upon you publicly the honour of knighthood.

“ I have the honour to be, dear sir,

“ Your obedient and faithful servant,

“ ROBERT PEEL.”

“ *James South, Esq., Observatory, Kensington.*”

This letter was accompanied by another, communicating the information that his Majesty had been pleased to place at the disposal of Sir James South, a pension of three hundred pounds annually, for the further cultivation of science.

On the morning after the levee, there was a royal inspection of the 1st and 2d battalions of the Grenadier

Guards, each officer and private having oak leaves in their caps, in commemoration of the battle of Salamanca. Of this, the King did not fail to take notice; and, after the review his Majesty paid the corps a deserved compliment for their valour and discipline. When the Guards marched off the ground, the position was taken up by the 9th Lancers, under the command of the Earl of Rosslyn; and after going through some fine evolutions, the officers formed a square, and were presented to his Majesty. These military spectacles attracted a vast number of persons, many of whom behaved in the most disgraceful manner, by pulling up the young trees, and dismantling the great mortar of its chevaux-de-frise.

On Friday, the 23d, his Majesty went in state to the House of Lords, where, being seated on the throne, and the Commons, with their speaker, in attendance, he delivered the following gracious speech:—

“ MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“ ON this first occasion of meeting you, I am desirous of repeating to you in person my cordial thanks for those assurances of sincere sympathy and affectionate attachment which you conveyed to me on the demise of my lamented brother, and my accession to the throne of my ancestors. I ascend that throne with a deep sense of the sacred duties which devolve upon me; with a firm reliance on the affection of my faithful subjects, and on the support and co-operation of Parliament; and with an humble and earnest prayer to Almighty God, that he will prosper my anxious endeavours to promote the happiness of a free and loyal people. It is with the utmost satisfaction that I find myself enabled to congratulate you upon the general tranquillity of Europe. This tranquillity it will be the object of my constant endeavours to preserve; and the assurances which I receive from my allies, and from all foreign powers, are dictated in a similar spirit. I trust that the good understanding which prevails upon subjects of common interest, and the deep concern which every state must have in maintaining the peace of the world, will insure the satisfactory settlement of those matters which still remain to be finally arranged.

“ GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

“ I thank you for the supplies which you have granted, and for the provision which you have made for several branches of the public service, during that part of the present year which must elapse before a new Parliament can be assembled. I cordially congratulate you on the diminution which has taken place in the expenditure of the country; on the reduction of the charge of the public debt; and on the relief which you have afforded to my people by the repeal of some of those taxes which have heretofore pressed heavily upon them. You may rely upon my prudent and economical administration of the supplies which you have placed at my disposal, and upon my readiness to concur in every diminution of the public charges which can be effected consistently with the dignity of the crown, the maintenance of national faith, and the permanent interests of the country.

“ MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“ I cannot put an end to this session, and take my leave of the present Parliament, without expressing my most cordial thanks for the zeal which you have manifested on so many occasions for the welfare of my people. You have wisely availed yourselves of the happy opportunity of general peace and internal repose, calmly to review many of the laws and judicial establishments of the country; and you have applied such cautious and well-considered reforms, as are consistent with the spirit of our venerable institutions, and are calculated to facilitate and expedite the administration of justice. You have removed the civil disqualifications which affected numerous and important classes of my people. While I declare, on this solemn occasion, my fixed intention to maintain, to the utmost of my power, the Protestant reformed religion established by law; let me at the same time express my earnest hope, that the animosities which have prevailed on account of religious distinctions may be forgotten, and that the decision of Parliament with respect to those distinctions having been irrevocably pronounced, my faithful subjects will unite with me in advancing the great object contemplated by the legislature, and in promoting that spirit of domestic concord and peace which constitutes the surest basis of our national strength and happiness.”

On the following day, the Parliament was dissolved by proclamation.

CHAPTER II.

1830.

FROM King William's accession to the throne, he continued to acquire additional popularity, and entwine around him daily the attachment and affection of his people. Contrary to the habits of privacy indulged in by his predecessor, he appeared constantly in public, behaved with the most affecting condescension, and with an unconfined affability to all who approached him. His activity astonished those who were unacquainted with his domestic conduct: he seemed to have inherited all the early and temperate habits of his royal father. He rose at 6 o'clock, at which hour the messengers from the different government offices were appointed to be in attendance, and, assisted by his private secretary, Sir Herbert Taylor, he got through the despatches without delay, and forwarded the messengers to their destinations.

Numerous anecdotes were in circulation at that joyous moment, of the new monarch's consideration, kindness, and affability, but more particularly his affectionate remembrance and notice of old friends. When the venerable Sir John Sinclair, the author of so many valuable statistical works upon Scotland, his native country, appeared at court, and knelt to kiss his Majesty's hand, the King raised him up, acknowledged him with playful familiarity, and said, in an emphatic manner, "Be assured, Sir John, I shall ever be friendly to the land of cakes and agriculture."

When William the Fourth was Lord High Admiral, he had been directed by the King, his brother, to present to each of the four divisions of royal marines a splendid and magnificent pair of new colours, in consideration of the distinguished services of the corps, bearing, instead of the names of several places, the expressive emblem of the Globe, to denote that they had distinguished themselves all over the world, at different periods. To commemorate such an interesting and important event in the history of the corps, as well as to express the gratitude they felt towards the Lord High Admiral, meetings of the officers were convened, the result of which was a spontaneous application to his Royal Highness, that he would honour the corps by sitting for his portrait, to an artist of his Highness's choice; the commemorative pictures to be suspended in each of the splendid mess-rooms of the respective corps. The Lord High Admiral immediately acceded to the grateful request, and sat for his portrait to Sir Thomas Lawrence. These circumstances took place in the year 1827. At the date of the Duke's accession to the throne, the pictures being nearly finished, the new sovereign signified his intention of *presenting* his portrait to each of the royal marine corps, and permitted them the further indulgence of selecting whatever pattern and design they might wish them to be adorned with, at his Majesty's expense.

At this period two royal visitors to their Majesties arrived, Prince Frederick of Prussia, and the King of Wurtemberg; the latter was attended, from Boulogne, by Colonel Fitzclarence; and on Saturday the 24th a grand dinner was given at St. James's Palace, in honour of the illustrious strangers. Early the next morning, the two monarchs with the young prince visited Windsor; and, after viewing the beauties of that magnificent palace, and

the surrounding scenery, returned to dine with the Duke of Wellington.

On the morning of the 26th, a grand review of the household and other troops took place in Hyde Park. The spectacle was uncommonly splendid; and though the number of spectators was immense, perfect order was preserved, and few accidents occurred. One distressing event, however, happened. A branch of a tree, on which several persons were seated, broke down: one poor victim was killed on the spot, and three others, who were severely injured, were removed to St. George's Hospital. At 11 o'clock his Majesty, accompanied by the Queen, the King of Wurtemberg, the royal Dukes, and their respective suites, entered the ground amid a grand salute, and the review began, under the command of General Lord Combermere. On leaving the park, their Majesties and train visited Apsley House, where an elegant entertainment was provided. The attention of the crowd was now directed to that quarter; and soon after, the Queen, attended by the Duke of Wellington, appeared in the balcony, when she was received with loud and reiterated cheers. On her Majesty's retiring, the King, attended by the Duke, came forward, and was greeted in like manner. Another instance of the kind and condescending disposition of the Queen must here be mentioned: towards the close of the review, when a tremendous press of the multitude took place, occasioned by the rapid approach of the Life Guards, a respectable woman in a state of terror fled for protection to the royal carriage. On recovering from her fright, she was astonished to find herself supported by the Queen, who led her to a place of safety, and did not part from her till the King directed Colonel Fitzclarence to take the woman under his care. His Majesty also cautioned the soldiers

to avoid endangering the lives of the people by their impetuosity, and in particular "to take care of the females." On leaving Apsley House, his Majesty proceeded to the palace, to hold a grand investiture of the Garter, at which the King of Wurtemberg was admitted into the order, with peculiar marks of distinction. At the conclusion of the ceremonial, a magnificent dinner was served up in the banqueting-room, to all the knights present at the Chapter, to the foreign ambassadors, and other persons of consequence.

next morning, his Majesty and the King of Wurtemberg were present at a review of the artillery and engineers at Woolwich, and, after going over the arsenal, and inspecting the royal artillery, partook of an elegant collation at the noble barracks of that corps. On this occasion, the King, having toasted "The Royal Artillery," gave, "The Duke of Wellington, and the army and navy combined."

On Wednesday, the 28th, the King held his second levee, which exceeded the former in the number and splendour of the company. Among the addresses presented, that from Brighton was marked by a curious incident. After returning a suitable reply, his Majesty said, aloud, to the gentlemen of the deputation, "Tell the good people of Brighton, that I shall soon be with them."

Another instance of royal frankness, at this levee, was the reception of Sir Robert Wilson, who had just been restored to the rank of which he had been deprived in the preceding reign, for assisting the escape of Lavalette from prison at Paris. As soon as the gallant general began to express his acknowledgments for this act of favour, he was interrupted by the King, who, taking him by the hand, said, "Sir Robert, don't thank me: I never tell an untruth. Your restoration was so strongly recommended to me by



my ministers, that it was my duty to comply; for, God forbid that I should ever stand in the way of the favours of the crown towards a meritorious officer. I have now the satisfaction of congratulating you on your restoration, because I know that, if ever your services are wanted, I shall find in you a brave officer and a loyal subject."

On Thursday the 29th, their Majesties went to Bushy Park, the rangership of which was then bestowed upon the Queen for her life. In the course of the day, the royal party visited the village of Teddington, where they experienced a most hearty welcome. Arches, constructed of flowers and evergreens, were erected at the principal entrances; and beautiful silken banners, bearing the royal arms with appropriate devices of loyalty, were displayed in all directions.

On the 6th of August, the King and Queen went in state to the Tower, accompanied by the Duke of Sussex and Prince George of Cumberland, and, after inspecting the garrison, and partaking of a collation with the Duke of Wellington, Constable of the Tower, proceeded down the river to Greenwich Hospital, where they were received by the governor, Sir Richard Keats. His Majesty, dressed in the uniform of an admiral, here inspected the royal marines and pensioners; after which, he visited the Painted Hall, Chapel, Wards, Naval Asylum, and the whole of that noble establishment, and at 6 o'clock returned to town.

The following morning, the royal party honoured Sir Herbert Taylor, with a visit in the Regent's Park; and, having examined the chapel and almshouses of St. Katherine's College, of which Sir Herbert was master, sat down to an elegant *dejeune*. The same evening, the King gave a grand dinner at St. James's, to the corporation of the

Trinity House, of which, at the time of his accession, he had been the master.

During the latter years of the reign of George IV., the public were excluded from that intercourse with their monarch which is always acceptable to a loyal people. Vast sums of money had been expended upon the repairs of Windsor Castle, yet it was but partially occupied by the royal establishment, and the public were denied access to its costly embellishments, from the misanthropic temperament of their king. So averse was his majesty to the least possible degree of publicity, at that period of his life, that, while his pony phaeton was preparing for a ride in the park, out-riders were despatched, to provide that the sound of human footstep should not be heard, nor the form of plebeian humanity be seen, within the range of his majesty's chosen excursion.

To this monarch, popular applause appears to have been confounded with popular clamour; his patriotic successor perfectly understood and valued the distinction. On the 7th of August, immediately after the arrival of King William and Queen Adelaide at the castellated palace of our British monarchs, the terraces, orangery, parterre, and other improvements, were generously thrown open to the public, who quickly perceived that their new monarch had taken the surest course to the attainment of earthly ambition, by securing the affections of his people. On the 21st of the same month, a grand fête was given at Windsor, in commemoration of his Majesty's birthday, and the splendour and beauty of the illuminations were not a little magnified by the recollection of the beautiful improvements around the Castle, to which the inhabitants of Windsor and its vicinity had just been allowed access.

At the commencement of the ensuing week, the family circle was enlivened by the arrival of the Princess Elizabeth, Landgravine of Hesse Homberg, accompanied by her brother, the Duke of Cambridge, and his son, Prince George. On Monday the 16th, the King, agreeably to his promise, went to Brighton, where he was met by thousands of joyful spectators, who attended him all the way to the Pavilion, and in the evening the town was brilliantly illuminated. His Majesty, on this occasion, avoided all parade, and gave express orders that the military should not make their appearance. On entering the town, however, observing two gentlemen of the Guards dressed in their uniforms, among the crowd, he waved his hand from the carriage, and said, "Officers, wheel off?" The mandate was promptly obeyed. The next morning, his Majesty went over the palace and the gardens, for the improvement of which he gave several directions. Happening, in the course of this survey, to step outside the building, the assembled people, supposing that he was about to take a walk, retired to a short distance: upon which his Majesty courteously said, "You need not fall back; I am not going any further." The next day, the residents of Brighton, and the numerous visitors at that fashionable watering-place, were surprised by the sudden departure of the King, but consoled under their disappointment by the information, that his return with the Queen might shortly be expected.

When their Majesties went to reside at Windsor, orders were left for the free admission of the public to the interior of the house at Bushy, as well as to the Park itself. The inhabitants of Hampton, on this occasion, presented an address to the King, in which, after expressing their attachment to his person, they introduced, with much pro-

priety and feeling, their satisfaction at the appointment of Queen Adelaide to the rangership, and their grateful sense of the favours which they had enjoyed during the residence of their Majesties at Bushy Park. The King appeared much moved by this address, and emphatically observed, in his reply, that as her Majesty, in the natural course of events, would be resident with them long after he should himself have quitted this life, and knowing her strong attachment to the place, he had thought it his duty to consult her wishes, which he was convinced would be beneficial to the people of that neighbourhood. In grateful respect for this benevolence, the people of Hampton entered into a subscription to celebrate annually his Majesty's birth-day, by appropriate festivities, and an entertainment to the poor.

At Windsor, a design was formed to honour the natal day of the Queen by giving a feast to the humble classes of the inhabitants. When his Majesty was apprised of this intention, he signified a wish to be present at the entertainment, and desired that the festive scene should be deferred till the commemoration of his own birth-day; the banquet was accordingly adjourned till the 21st of August. The morning opened delightfully; the shops were generally closed; and the gate, at the entrance of the long walk leading to the Castle, was ornamented with flags and laurels. At about half past two, their Majesties, and almost the whole of the Royal Family, entered the walk, and appeared much pleased with the arrangements. The tables had been previously covered with boiled and roast beef and mutton, roast veal, hams, and plum-puddings. The King, on arriving at the middle table, made a stop while grace was said. He then proceeded, amid the heartfelt acclamations of the spectators, and the people sat down to their repast. The whole number consisted of above three

thousand ; of whom there were fifty at each table. As soon as the company was seated, the bands of the two regiments, then stationed at Windsor, commenced playing. A more pleasing spectacle could not be conceived than that which was now exhibited, in the happy countenances of fathers, mothers, and children, with the perfect order and propriety of demeanour of the whole assembly. The evening was equally favourable for the illuminations and fire-works, which were of the most splendid description. The bells rang merrily the whole day; and the streets were crowded. In the evening, their Majesties entertained, in St. George's Hall, about two hundred persons of distinction; among whom were most of the cabinet and foreign ministers. The day was also distinguished as a public festival throughout the kingdom, and in most places the poor were made partakers of the general joy, by the bounty of their opulent neighbours.

The following instances of the kind feeling and prompt liberality of the King, at this time, are characteristic, but not extraordinary. On hearing that the widow of Sir George Hoste had been left in embarrassed circumstances, his Majesty, without being solicited, sent a message to her ladyship, with the information, that a suite of apartments would be prepared for her reception in the palace of Hampton Court.

Another widowed lady, of infirm health, who resided in that royal asylum, had for some time been endeavouring, but in vain, to get the name of her only daughter included in the patent of residence. His Majesty was no sooner made acquainted with the circumstance, than he immediately hastened, in person, to cheer the widow with an assurance that her wish should be gratified; and the desired alteration in the patent was accordingly made.

An instance of considerate generosity which was displayed at this time by the sovereign, was that of presenting to the Zoological Society, for their garden in the Regent's Park, the collection of animals that had belonged to the late King, one hundred and fifty in number, together with many valuable specimens of natural history.

On Monday, the 30th of August, their Majesties, with the Landgravine of Hesse Homberg and the Princess Augusta, left Windsor for Brighton. During their stay on the coast, the royal party made excursions to several places in the vicinity. In a visit to Lewes, the King was addressed by Sir John Shelley, one of the representatives of the borough, who, among other observations, mentioned that the town had not received a sovereign within its walls for the space of six hundred years. His Majesty replied as follows :

“ In returning an answer to that which you, Sir, have just spoken, I cannot help noticing, in the first place, that expression which you have just now made use of, that you thank me for the bestowment of my time upon the present occasion. In looking back upon the blessings which this country possesses, and in feeling grateful for them, it is always to be remembered that our time is to be devoted to those duties which belong to us in our several stations of life, in order that we may enjoy all those blessings entire whilst we live, and hand them down unimpaired to those by whom we shall be succeeded. I can assure you, that I feel always, and it is a principle firmly fixed in my mind, that the time of the sovereign is due to the nation over which he is called to reign ; and that my time is always well bestowed, in furthering the happiness and interests of the people.

“ It certainly is a circumstance well worthy of remark, that so long a period as six hundred years should have elapsed since last a king of this country has been present in this ancient and loyal borough. My lamented brother, his late Majesty, who, where he was most known, was always best beloved, having, from the state of his health, been unable to see so much of his subjects in this neighbourhood as he otherwise undoubtedly would have done ; it is gratifying to me, in that station in which Providence has now placed me, to have an opportunity of so doing.

“By a late arrangement, it has been provided, that, whatever property any monarch of this country may purchase, at his decease shall, if not otherwise disposed of by will, become the property of his successor. In this way, the palace at Brighton, the property of his late Majesty, has come into the possession of the crown; and it is particularly gratifying to me, connected and conversant as I have been from my early youth with naval affairs, that this, which may be called a naval palace, should, at my accession, have first become the property of the crown.

“I have been so frequently in this neighbourhood, and in the former part of my life spent so much time in this county, that I can never at any time consider myself a stranger in it, but as residing in a county to which I have long and happily been accustomed.

“Intending annually to live some considerable portion of time in it, I have commanded that the militia of the county shall bear in future the name of the Royal Sussex Militia; a name which I have great pleasure in bestowing, and which, I believe, is usual where a royal residence is for any length of time established. I have always been attached to agricultural pursuits; and I need scarcely say to you, gentlemen of Sussex, that this county is highly interesting to every lover of agriculture, not only from its productive soil, but from that excellent breed of sheep, which may, perhaps, be considered as the best which England any where produces. I consider the county of Sussex as also one of the best conducted, most loyal, and exemplary counties in the kingdom.

“I feel great gratification, gentlemen, in the visit which I am paying to this town; I accept with pleasure the manifestations of loyalty and regard which have been made to me; and I conclude by wishes for the welfare of the inhabitants, by thanking you, and by drinking to your continuance in good health.”

After a short pause, the King again spoke, and added as follows:

“There is, gentlemen, one point which I have passed over, but of which it was my intention to have taken notice. You have drunk the health of her Majesty the Queen; and in returning you my thanks, I meant to have done the same on her part also. Among the many favourable circumstances under which Providence has called me to ascend the throne of this country, there is none for which I feel more grateful, upon which I set a higher value, than that it had previously been my happy fortune to be married to an individual so excellent in every amiable and good feeling. In this country, character finds its way forth into the world, and is always known; I

have no doubt, therefore, that you are already well aware of what I would say; but I must take the opportunity of speaking what I am most sincerely convinced of—that her Majesty, who sits before you, possesses every estimable quality calculated to give worth and lustre to her exalted station. Of this I am satisfied also, that a great share of that good and kind feeling which has been so largely manifested towards me since I have occupied the throne, has not only been due to her estimable qualities, but has strictly and truly been exhibited and paid on account of that sense which is entertained of them.”

This speech was listened to with profound attention, and made a deep impression upon the company. Her Majesty appeared much affected by the manner in which the King had spoken of his connubial happiness. It was impossible, indeed, for any one to be present at such an interesting scene, and not feel sentiments of profound admiration for two august personages, who appeared formed by Providence to exhibit in their own persons a bright example of conjugal felicity to the rest of the world.

During the month of July, the proceedings of both Lords and Commons possessed little that was interesting. The Duke of Wellington carried through his bill for regulating the sale of beer; Lord Shaftesbury pressed the forgery bill to a successful termination; and bills for the better administration of justice, and the disfranchisement of East Retford, were read a third time, and passed. On the 23d of July, his Majesty prorogued the parliament, in person, after which he returned to St. James's, amidst the deafening acclamations of thousands of all ranks and sexes, who lined the way; and on the following day the parliament was dissolved by royal proclamation, the writs being made returnable on the 12th day of September.

CHAPTER III.

1830.

WE are now carried back, by analogy of events, to the beginning of the French revolution. Every thing that was fearful in thought, unwise in council, and violent in action, continued to be performed in the capital of the French nation, while England with complacency enjoyed her acquisition of a patriot King. Revolutionary France, which for fifty years was the source of sorrow to civilized society, and had inflicted wounds upon the surrounding nations of Europe too deep to have yet been healed, once more begun to arouse herself to commotion, and by her example to produce amongst neighbouring people, effects, which her ambition and power had before occasioned. This result is probably a natural one; and if we analyze history, perhaps we shall find that it enlightens and instructs individuals, but that the great masses of mankind only learn wisdom from their own suffering.

The King of France and his ministers, at the head of whom was the Prince de Polignac, for some time resisted, obstinately, the eloquence and arguments of the lately elected deputies, until at length the contest was brought to an issue, by an explicit statement, on the part of the ministry, "that the will of the throne should, and must be the law; that the moment was arrived for having recourse to measures that were *"beyond the limits of legal order."* This unconstitutional advice was followed immediately by the three memorable ordinances: the first suspended the liberty

of the press; the second dissolved the new chamber of deputies; and by the third, the law of elections was annulled. The proclamation of these despotic mandates was succeeded by the thunder of artillery at Vincennes, preparing for the work of destruction that was meditated by tyranny. The portentous sounds served but to awaken the enemies of the throne to the weight of the burden imposed on them; and became, in fact, the signal for arousing an indignant people to the assertion of their rights. Paris was soon declared in a state of siege. The Duke de Ragusa directed the movements of the king's troops, and La Fayette led the national guards to victory: but it was not till after three days' slaughter in the very streets of the capital, and the fall of six thousand of her citizens, that Paris saw tranquillity restored, and her public offices again thrown open for the transaction of business.

On the 31st of the month, Charles X. was deposed by proclamation, and permitted to go into voluntary exile, while his too faithful ministers, whose misfortunes were attributable to their attachment to the most bigoted of kings, were arrested, tried, and sentenced to imprisonment for life. The royal exile having obtained an escort from the provisional government, reached the sea-coast in safety; and there embarked for the free shores of Britain, having previously offered to resign all claim upon the throne of France, in favour of his grandson.

But the shores of Albion, so hospitable to his race in former days, at first denied to the royal fugitive a spot to tread on; for, on reaching Spithead, on the 17th of August, he was not permitted to disembark. By a subsequent order, however, he was directed to proceed to Poole, where he landed with his suite, and was conveyed to Lulworth castle, in Dorsetshire, the seat of Cardinal Weld. From this noble mansion he soon

removed to the palace of Holyrood House, at Edinburgh, where he continued to reside until his departure for his final residence on the continent of Europe.

France was not solitary in an exemplification of anarchy and dissension amongst her children. Spain was convulsed in all her members; and the throne of Portugal was filled by an usurper.

The mantle of peace dropped upon the commotions of the French capital as suddenly as the poisoned shirt had done a few days before. The same voices that had exclaimed, "Down with Charles," only respired to shout, "Vive Louis d'Orleans," and the same people that had shed their dearest blood in the vindication of liberty, and expulsion of a despot, raised a new monarch to the throne a few hours after. True, a distinction was decreed—the sovereign henceforth, being the unanimous choice of the people, was to be styled, "King of the French." With this security for the protection of their liberties, Louis Philippe, Duke of Orleans, son of Philippe Egalité, so celebrated in the former revolutionary movements, ascended the throne, amidst the loudest and longest shouts of "Vive la Liberté."

Just before the involuntary abdication of Charles X., the French nation had achieved a conquest, the consequences of which may yet prove of the highest importance to the interests of Great Britain in the Mediterranean; we allude to the capture and occupation of Algiers. A naval armament had been sent against that piratical city by the English, under the command of the gallant Lord Exmouth; but glory, rather than compensation—the policy of England for ages back—was all that resulted from one of the most sanguinary bombardments that was ever effected. The Dey, obliged to capitulate, and release all christian cap-

tives, was permitted to retain possession of his misused power and principality.

The revolution in France soon spread its contagious influence into other countries. Belgium first caught the infection; and at the latter end of August, an explosion took place at Brussels, in the destruction of the government printing-office, and attack on the residence of the editor of *Le National*. This was only the prelude to more sanguinary outrages, the objects of which were the Dutch authorities, and all who favoured the union of Holland with Belgium. A separation of the two countries was now openly proclaimed, and the ancient standard of Brabant, (red, orange, and black,) displayed on the town-hall of Brussels. In consequence of these proceedings, the king convened the states-general, by whom it was resolved, that the insurrection should be put down by force. Accordingly, Prince Frederick, his majesty's second son, marched with a body of Dutch forces against Brussels; but after four days' hard fighting in the streets at a great disadvantage, his highness was obliged to abandon the city with considerable loss. The insurrection now became almost universal throughout Flanders; and at the beginning of October, the hereditary Prince of Orange, as lieutenant-general of the Flemish provinces, removed the seat of government to Antwerp. Here he issued a proclamation, announcing that the separation of Belgium from Holland was acknowledged, and that he should take upon himself the sovereignty of the former. To this declaration, no respect was paid; and the King of the Netherlands was so displeased with the conduct of his son, that he revoked his commission.

Such was the agitated state of things on the continent at the close of the year; nor were the British islands free

from disturbances. After harvest, the labouring peasantry committed, in various places, violent depredations upon agricultural property, by breaking in pieces all farming machinery, and setting fire to barns, stacks of corn, and even to dwelling-houses.

It was on the 15th of October, in the revolutionary year of 1830, that Mr. Huskisson, member of parliament for Liverpool, met an untimely and painful death beneath the wheels of a train of carriages on the Liverpool and Manchester railway, on the first day of its being opened to the public. Mr. Huskisson was a distinguished statesman—respected even by his political opponents; and his death caused a sensation throughout the nation.. He had always been an uncompromising advocate of free trade.

Under this gloomy aspect of affairs, foreign and domestic, the first parliament of this reign was summoned for business on Tuesday, the 2nd of November, when his Majesty delivered the following speech from the throne:—

“ MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“ It is with great satisfaction that I meet you in parliament, and that I am enabled, in the present conjuncture, to recur to your advice. Since the dissolution of the late parliament, events of deep interest and importance have occurred on the continent of Europe. The elder branch of the House of Bourbon no longer reigns in France; and the Duke of Orleans has been called to the throne, by the title of King of the French. Having received from the new sovereign a declaration of his earnest desire to cultivate the good understanding, and to maintain inviolate all the engagements subsisting with this country, I did not hesitate to continue my diplomatic relations and friendly intercourse with the French court.—I have witnessed with deep regret the state of affairs in the Low Countries. I lament that the enlightened administration of the king should not have preserved his dominions from revolt; and that the wise and prudent measure of submitting the desires and complaints of his people to the deliberation of an extraordinary meeting of the states-general, should have led to no satisfactory result. I am endeavouring, in concert with my allies, to devise such means of

restoring tranquillity as may be compatible with the good government of the Netherlands, and with the future security of other states.—Appearances of tumult and disorder have produced uneasiness in different parts of Europe : but the assurances of a friendly disposition, which I continue to receive from all foreign powers, justify the expectation that I shall be enabled to preserve for my people the blessings of peace.—Impressed at all times with the necessity of respecting the faith of national engagements, I am persuaded that any determination to maintain, in conjunction with my allies, those general treaties by which the political system of Europe has been established, will offer the best security for the repose of the world.—I have not yet accredited my ambassador to the court of Lisbon ; but the Portuguese government, having determined to perform a great act of justice and humanity, by the grant of a general amnesty, I think that the time will shortly arrive when the interests of my subjects will demand a renewal of those relations which had so long existed between the two countries.—I am impelled by the deep solicitude which I feel for the welfare of my people, to recommend to your immediate consideration the provisions which it may be advisable to make for the exercise of the royal authority, in case that it should please Almighty God to terminate my life before my successor shall have arrived at years of maturity.

“ I shall be prepared to concur with you in the adoption of those measures which may appear best calculated to maintain unimpaired the stability and dignity of the crown, and thereby to strengthen the securities by which the civil and religious liberties of my people are guarded.”

“ GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

“ I have ordered the estimates for those services of the present year, for which the last parliament did not fully provide, to be forthwith laid before you. The estimates for the ensuing year will be prepared with that strict regard to economy which I am determined to enforce in every branch of the public expenditure.—By the demise of my lamented brother, the late King, the civil list revenue has expired. I place, without reserve, at your disposal my interest in the hereditary revenues, and in those funds which may be derived from droits of the crown or admiralty, from the West India duties, or from any casual revenues, either in my foreign possessions, or in the United Kingdom. In surrendering to you my interest in revenues which have in former settlements of the civil list been reserved to the crown, I rejoice in the opportunity of evincing my entire reliance on your dutiful attachment, and my confidence that you will cheerfully provide

all that may be necessary for the support of the civil government, and the honour and dignity of my crown."

" MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

" I deeply lament that, in some districts of the country, the property of my subjects has been endangered by combinations for the destruction of machinery, and that serious losses have been sustained through the acts of wicked incendiaries. I cannot view, without grief and indignation, the efforts which are industriously made to excite among the people a spirit of discontent and disaffection, and to disturb the concord which happily prevails between those parts of my dominion, the union of which is essential to their common strength and common happiness. I am determined to exert, to the utmost of my power, all the means which the law and constitution have placed at my disposal for the punishment of sedition, and for the prompt suppression of outrage and disorder. Amidst all the difficulties of the present conjuncture, I reflect, with the highest satisfaction, on the loyalty and affectionate attachment of the great body of my people. I am confident that they justly appreciate the full advantage of that happy form of government, under which, through the favour of Divine Providence, this country has enjoyed, for a long succession of years, a greater share of internal peace, of commercial prosperity, of true liberty, of all that constitutes social happiness, than has fallen to the lot of any other country in the world. It is the great object of my life to preserve these blessings to my people, and to transmit them unimpaired to posterity; and I am animated in the discharge of the sacred duty which is committed to me, by the firmest reliance on the wisdom of parliament, and on the cordial support of my faithful and loyal subjects."

It has been asserted, that his Majesty was himself the author of his addresses to both houses of parliament.—Whether such were the fact, it did not save the ministers from the attacks of the opposition, for their silence on the subjects of reform and reduction of taxes. The possible interference in Belgian affairs—the proposed recognition of Don Miguel—the disturbances in Kent—and dangerous condition of Ireland, were subjects brought in to aid the arguments of the opposition. The addresses were carried in both houses; but the Duke of Wellington declared, in an honourable and manly way, his total dissent from the feel-

ing he observed to be gaining ground on particular points. He said that "ministers were not prepared to introduce any measure for a reform in parliament. He had never heard (he said) any sufficient reason to induce him to think that the representation of the people in parliament could be materially improved by reform, or rendered more satisfactory to the nation. For reform in parliament, he confessed, he was not prepared, because he did not think it expedient; and should it come under discussion whilst he continued in his present post, as a public man he should feel it his duty to resist it."

Sir Robert Peel, though he did not speak out in the same fearless tone and uncompromising language as the noble duke, yet professed that he saw difficulties connected with the question of reform, which he was by no means prepared to solve. He wished, nevertheless, to say nothing then, which might in any degree prejudice the discussion hereafter, or interfere with its advancement to a satisfactory termination.

These declarations were sufficient to spread the flame of discontent, which had already been kindled against the administration; and the consequences were soon made apparent, both in and out of parliament, by formidable combinations to embarrass the government and thwart its measures. At this critical moment, a circumstance occurred, which served to increase the unpopularity of the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel. The King had promised, some time before the meeting of parliament, to honour the feast at Guildhall, on Lord Mayor's day, with his royal presence; and great were the preparations of the citizens on the approach of that civic festival. But while indulging their expectations with the pleasure they should receive from the visit of their Majesties, the inhabitants of

the metropolis were suddenly mortified by the publication, on Sunday evening, the 7th, of a letter from Sir Robert Peel to the corporation; in which the minister observed, "From information which has been recently received, there is reason to apprehend that, notwithstanding the devoted loyalty and affection borne to his Majesty by the citizens of London, advantage would be taken of an occasion which must necessarily assemble a vast number of persons by night, to create tumult and confusion, and thereby to endanger the properties and the lives of his Majesty's subjects." This letter was placarded throughout the metropolis, and circulated in every quarter. The events of the preceding week had shewn, that amongst the lowest of the populace there was a disposition to mischief, directed especially towards the new police and the Duke of Wellington. This was particularly manifested on the return of the King from the House of Lords on Tuesday, as well as on his previous visits to the two theatres. Those indications of hostile feeling against the prime minister and the constabulary force, naturally gave rise to apprehensions, in the minds of many persons, that, notwithstanding the deserved popularity of their Majesties, and the feelings of joy which the royal visit would excite in the great mass of their loyal subjects, the presence of ministers in the train would probably occasion some unpleasant scenes. Under that impression, two members of the common-council acknowledged that they had warned the Duke of Wellington of his danger. The Lord Mayor elect (Alderman Key) also addressed his grace, in a letter, of which the following is a copy:—

“ MY LORD DUKE,

“ From the station of Lord Mayor, to which I have been elected, numberless communications are made to me, both personally and by letter, in reference to the 9th; and it is on that

account I take the liberty of addressing your Grace. Although the feelings of all the respectable citizens of London are decidedly loyal, yet it cannot but be known there are, both in London, as well as the country, a set of desperate and abandoned characters, who are anxious to avail themselves of any circumstance to create tumult and confusion ; while all, of any respectability in the city, are vieing with each other to testify their loyalty on this occasion. From what I learn, it is the intention of some of the desperate characters alluded to, to take the opportunity of making an attack on your Grace's person on your approach to the hall. Every exertion on my part shall be used to make the best possible arrangements in the city; but should any sudden and violent attack be made in one quarter, any civil force alone might not be sufficiently effectual; and I should not be doing my duty, after what I have heard, did I not take the liberty of suggesting to your Grace the propriety of your coming strongly and sufficiently guarded. I probably may be considered giving you needless trouble; but the respect which I, as well as every person who really wishes the welfare of the country, must have for your Grace, and the gratitude we owe you, has induced me to adopt this course.

“ I have the honour to be, my Lord,

“ With the highest respect,

“ Your very humble obedient servant,

“ JOHN KEY, Lord Mayor Elect.”

It further appeared, that ministers had received similar notices from various quarters, and that several violent and inflammatory handbills had been industriously circulated, to excite the populace to outrage. These circumstances induced the Duke and his colleagues to decline attending the Lord Mayor's dinner; and, as their absence would have been liable to a misconstruction, little less serious than the danger to be apprehended from their presence, it was judged prudent to advise his Majesty to relinquish his intention also, to prevent confusion and bloodshed. As soon as this determination became known, a general consternation was diffused throughout the metropolis and its vicinity. Business was nearly suspended; alarming reports were spread, of con-

spiracies ready to explode; of the influx of numbers of strangers into London, prepared for all kinds of mischief; and of immediate attempts being about to be made, to bring on a revolution. All this, of course, had an effect on the funds, which fell near three per cent.; and mercantile confidence was almost at an end. The entertainment at the Guildhall was put off; and the chief magistrate, with his officers, went to Westminster Hall without the customary parade. It was naturally supposed from hence, that ministers must have been in possession of information that had not publicly transpired; and the military movements adopted by government gave additional strength to the general apprehensions of undefined evils.

On Monday morning, two troops of artillery, and two companies of sappers and miners, arrived at the Tower, from Woolwich, to supply the vacancy occasioned in consequence of detachments of the Guards being required elsewhere. The ditch of the Tower was filled with water, and workmen were employed in erecting gates in the passage leading to the wharf. Orders were given on Sunday morning, that no persons should be admitted through the Tower; but passengers were allowed to enter the gates near the stairs, and proceed along the wharf to the iron gate.—Orders were also issued at the War Office, to the commanding officers of the Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards, and the three battalions of the Foot Guards doing duty in London, for the whole of the men to be called into the different barracks at half-past five o'clock, and there to continue all night under arms. The same precaution was taken with respect to the first battalion of Grenadier Guards, then on duty in the Tower, and the gates were kept closed during the greater part of the day. An extra guard was also marched to the Magazine, in Hyde-park; and several

detachments arrived in and near London in the course of the day. The second battalion of the Grenadier Guards, under the command of Colonel Lord Saltoun, arrived, by forced marches, from Windsor and Brighton. A double guard was likewise placed on duty at the Bank, and ordered to remain there the whole night.

Fears were entertained of riots on Tuesday evening; but no affray of importance having taken place, confidence was restored, and the funds rapidly recovered.

The interruption of the King's visit to the city became a subject of animated discussion in the House of Lords, where the Duke of Richmond declared his belief that, "the King reigned in the hearts of his subjects; and he pledged his property and existence, that his Majesty might have gone, unaccompanied by guards, and unarmed, through every street in the metropolis." Earl Grey considered the information that had been acted upon loose and vague; therefore, that it ought not to have been made the subject of alarm. The Duke defended his conduct in an able speech, during which he read many letters and extracts, tending to establish a sufficient ground for the precautionary measures he had adopted. In the House of Commons Sir Robert Peel sustained the attacks of the opposition, and defended himself from the imputation of being a vain alarmist. He produced handbills of an inflammatory and violent nature, commencing with the words, "To arms! to arms!" "Liberty and arms!" "Fly to arms," &c. Neither the explanation of Sir Robert Peel nor that of the noble Duke was acknowledged to be satisfactory; and the conduct of the Lord Mayor elect met the unqualified censure of all parties. He had acted without consulting his brethren, and led the ministers into a difficulty from which there was no escape. The production of documents went to show, that no violence

was menaced towards the King, and that if danger was to be apprehended, it was the ministers themselves that would have been exposed to it. This perplexity occasioned the first exhibition of distrust in ministers on the part of the country.

On Monday, the 15th of November, when the chancellor of the exchequer, Mr. Goulburn, moved that the House of Commons should go into a committee on the civil list, which, according to previous estimate, it was proposed to raise to the annual sum of £970,000; Sir Henry Parnell moved, as an amendment, "that a select committee be appointed, to inquire into the various items connected with the civil list, and to report thereon."

After a long debate, the house divided, when the numbers were—for the amendment 233, against it 204; thus leaving ministers in a minority of twenty-nine.

This terminated the political ascendancy of the Duke of Wellington; and, on the following evening, his Grace, soon after entering the house, approached the table, and said, "My Lords, I deem it my duty to inform your Lordships, that, in consequence of what occurred last night in the other House of Parliament, I felt it right to wait this morning on the King, and tender his Majesty the resignation of the office which I hold; that his Majesty has been pleased to accept of my resignation; and that I continue in my present situation only till a successor shall have been appointed." Having made this declaration, his Grace left the House.

In the lower house, a similar communication was made by Sir Robert Peel; but a circumstance followed, for which it is very difficult to account. Lord Althorp having suggested to Mr. (afterwards Lord) Brougham, the propriety of postponing his motion for parliamentary reform, which stood for that evening, the learned gentleman gave a reluctant assent in these remarkable words: "As any

change of administration that may take place cannot affect me, I am anxious to take this opportunity of stating, that, if I now put off the motion, it will be only to the 25th of this month, and no longer; for I shall positively bring it forward then, whoever may be his Majesty's ministers."

The next day he repeated the same declaration, upon Sir Matthew White Ridley's moving, that the consideration of election petitions should be postponed till after Christmas, that time might be given for the completion of the administration.

Mr. Brougham expressed his astonishment at the motion, as well as at the reasons assigned for it by the honourable member, namely, that ministers would not be present. "For himself, he would say, that the house could do many things without their assistance; with every feeling of respect for the future ministers, generally speaking, he could have nothing to do with the administration." Two days afterwards, however, the learned gentleman's name appeared in the following list of the new Whig ministry:

Earl Grey, first lord of the treasury.	Lord Holland, duchy of Lancaster.
Lord Brougham, lord chancellor.	Duke of Devonshire, lord chamberlain.
Lord Althorp, chancellor of the exchequer.	Lord Plunkett, lord chancellor of Ireland.
Lord Melbourne, home secretary.	Mr. Pennefather, attorney-general of Ireland.
Lord Palmerston, foreign secretary.	Hon. Agar Ellis, woods and forests.
Lord Goderich, colonial secretary.	Mr. R. Grant, judge-advocate-general.
Sir James Graham, first lord of the Admiralty.	Duke of Richmond postmaster general.
Marquess of Lansdowne, president of the council.	Lord John Russell, paymaster of the forces.
Lord Durham, lord privy seal.	Mr. P. Thompson, vice-president of the board of trade, and treasurer of the navy.
Marquess of Anglesey, lord lieutenant of Ireland.	Lieut. Gen. Sir Edward Paget, master-general of the ordnance.
Mr. Stanley, chief secretary for Ireland.	Sir Robert Spencer, surveyor-general to the board of ordnance.
Mr. Denman, attorney-general.	Right Hon. C. W. Wynn, secretary at war.
Mr. Horne, solicitor-general.	
Lord Hill, commander-in-chief.	
Lord Auckland, president of the board of trade, and master of the Mint.	
Mr. C. Grant, president of the board of control.	

Of this extraordinary ministerial revolution, it was then observed, by one of our leading journals,—“There has not been within our memory a resignation of an entire cabinet, upon which public opinion may be said to have borne so directly and so powerfully, as that of the Duke of Wellington and his colleagues. It must, nevertheless, be acknowledged, that in no instance was a change effected in public opinion so absolute, so obvious, and so sudden, as that which his Grace experienced within a single fortnight, which he had the misfortune to produce by his own words, and to disregard utterly until it struck and overwhelmed him.

“So long as the Duke of Wellington moved in harmony with the predominating spirit of the nation, he was the most popular of all public servants. Notwithstanding the murmurs of a bigoted and narrow-minded faction, he lost nothing in the eyes of the country generally, by his Catholic Bill, or his Dissenter’s Bill; while the earnest he had afforded of a desire to retrench, even before his humane and considerate abolition of the beer-tax, and the credit he thus obtained as an economist, down almost to the eve of the late meeting of parliament, were such, that not more than six weeks preceding his retirement, he never shewed himself to the people without being loudly cheered.

“The revulsion, as we have said, was not capricious on the part of the people of England. The minister, instead of the national colours under which he had served since his accession to office, seemed all at once to hoist an unconstitutional ensign, to desert with it to the head-quarters of the borough system, and, to aggravate this unhappy dereliction, by an attempt, after the fashion of former times, to fix upon the neck of the country a pledge of supporting a large amount of civil list, inaccessible to any effort at

alleviation or revision, during the whole reign of his present Majesty.

“The Duke, then, has fallen—for a fall it is: there is no evidence, (though suspicion there may be,) that his Grace would ever have resigned, if in his power to avoid it.

“What, then, is the lesson to be drawn from this downfall of a man, celebrated, esteemed, admired, until very lately endeared to his countrymen, and, in spite of every failure, immortal in the records of England and of Europe?—the lesson is an important one, for those who succeed, in office, the baffled administration of the Duke of Wellington.

“The exigency to which the new ministry owe their admission to power, is not one produced by court intrigue, or by mere party triumph: it is founded on that opinion which caused the overthrow of a government hostile to reform; not enough zealous for retrenchment; and supposed to be, though perhaps unjustly, not quite impartial, as between the interests of freedom and prerogative, in the concerns of foreign nations.

“By the tide of opinion, then, floated into office, it is upon it they must continue to buoy themselves, or they will inevitably perish.

“The composition of the GREY ministry is possibly as good as the present state of parties would admit of; confining the selection to public men who are likely to agree on most political questions, and especially in the enforcement of those great principles which constitute the rallying points for all reflecting and disinterested minds in the actual crisis of the world.

“We do not attach high importance to the fact, that the lists of new ministers in circulation, embrace not merely the larger portion of the yet ascertained parliamentary

talent now existing in the country, with the two exceptions of Lord Lyndhurst and Mr. Peel—but the whole of it. Wants which have more than once betrayed themselves among men of considerable ability as public speakers, may, we hope, not be chargeable upon the infant government; we mean those of sagacity in council, promptitude in action, and steadiness and diligence in the conduct of daily, though subordinate, matters of administration. It is, perhaps, upon the last of these points, even if apparently the least momentous, that the most serious apprehensions might now with some reason be entertained. The Tories have, for almost half a century, filled all the offices under government; so that, amongst many monopolies from which the public interest has suffered, by no means the least injurious has been the monopoly of official experience, tact, and readiness, by a single party in the state, to the exclusion of a fair share of it by any and every other: nor is the operation of such a circumstance upon the course of public business, under a Whig administration, confined to the mere slowness or imperfection with which the machine of state, through the rawness of its conductors, moves on; besides inexperience in the Whig who supersedes the Tory subaltern, there may be, from many years of close connexion with Tory patrons, something not far short of treachery in the Tory underling who, from generosity or indifference, is left in place, and trusted, when he ought in prudence to be superseded.

“For working heads of departments, we feel a delicacy about prejudicing any man. Lord Althorp is, we believe, a man of steady industry, as well as sound good sense. Lord Palmerston has had long experience at the head of a difficult department; and, if we may judge by his public speeches, is a man of liberal politics with regard to foreign

nations. Lord Goderich has had, before now, sufficient acquaintance with colonial affairs, to save him the labour of elementary inquiry upon the subject: though totally unfit to lead and govern, it would be unfair to withhold from him the praise of industry, as well as good temper. Of Lord Melbourne, our home secretary, little more need be said, than that, as secretary for Ireland, he was not looked up to for superior energy or efficiency, and yet his present office requires indefatigable industry and vigour. Mr. Charles Grant is accused of indolence; of want of ability, never. Of the remaining members, we may just observe, that Lord Grey and Lord Brougham are both known to the country more as opposition leaders than as practical statesmen, but that they both came into power at this moment, pledged in the most solemn manner, to their Sovereign and the country, as advocates of the most unflinching retrenchment, and of a principle of reform adopted without reference to its operation on political friend or foe. The new lord chancellor stands more peculiarly bound before the world, not only to parliamentary reform, but to execute, on a broad and mighty scale, a plan of reform in the jurisprudence of the empire. But the first and last object of solicitude for the new ministry must be, that they accede to office by capitulation with the people—they must redress our grievances, or be for ever ruined.”

The last act of the departed ministry was the introduction of a bill by Lord Lyndhurst, for supplying the exigency of the government in case of the royal demise. On the same evening that the government suffered a defeat in the Commons, by the loss of their motion respecting the civil list, the lord chancellor, in the upper house, rose and said, that the bill which he was about to propose, provided, that, in the event of a posthumous child of King William and

Queen Adelaide, the Queen Dowager should then be its guardian, and regent during the minority; and that Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Kent, should be the guardian and regent during the minority of her daughter, the Princess Victoria, the presumptive heiress of the kingdom.

This bill was read the first time, committed as a matter of form, and without opposition received the royal assent.

At the close of the year, a special commission was appointed for the trial of persons guilty of riotous and incendiary practices in the southern counties. Great numbers were convicted of destroying machinery, and robbing individuals of their property by forcible entry into their houses. Several were sentenced to be banished; some for ever, others for different terms of years; many were doomed to imprisonment for various periods; others were discharged on their own recognizances; and a few of the most flagitious offenders were ordered for execution. The most praiseworthy forbearance was throughout displayed by the legal advisers of the crown, in abstaining from prosecution in cases where any palliative circumstances were found, and where the misguided parties acted without deliberate malice. The lenity shewn to these offenders, however creditable to the government, failed of its purpose; and within a short time, similar outrages occurred, with equal, if not greater, malignity. This may be considered as a new species of crime in England; and shews too clearly the demoralization of a peasantry, formerly distinguished by subordination, industry, and sobriety. It cannot be denied that much of the evil arose from the want of proper instruction, moral and religious. This, the trials of the prisoners abundantly proved, as, out of one hundred and thirty-eight criminals at the Berkshire

assize, only twenty-five could read and write; thirty-seven could read only; and the remaining seventy-six were destitute of all education.

Immediately before the parliamentary recess, the royal family left Windsor, to spend the Christmas at Brighton, where, on the 27th of December, King William gave the hand of his youngest, and only unmarried daughter, Miss Amelia Fitzclarence, to the object of her choice, the Lord Viscount Falkland, a captain in the navy.

CHAPTER IV.

1831.

WHILE England was engaged in domestic mutations and contentions between the rank, the wealth, and ability of her most illustrious sons—a contest rather of noble ambition than of personal agrandisement—the fever of revolution was approaching its awful crisis, and making a vital inroad on the constitutions of other states.

France raised the cap and blew the trumpet of freedom; Poland burned to range herself under the banner of liberty, and, resolving to be released from the tyrant Constantine, broke out into revolution on the 29th day of November. Tyrants are sometimes brave, Richard of Glo'ster was surpassingly courageous; but Constantine, the brother of the Emperor of all the Russias, himself born to the inheritance of those boundless and cheerless dominions, alarmed by the spirit, or disgusted at the name of liberty, fled precipitately to his imperial brother, and found that protection beneath the shield of despotism, which he should have sought in the affections of his subjects. The autocrat at first endeavoured to intimidate the revolutionists; one manifesto says—these credulous men dare to think of victory for some moments, and propose conditions to their legitimate masters. But language, conciliatory or threatening, at that period was vain; and the ill-fated republicans at the diet of Warsaw, held, on the 25th of the month of January succeeding,

declared the throne of Poland vacant, and raised Prince Czartoryski to the presidency of the national government.

The decision of the diet was tantamount to throwing down the gauntlet to the autocrat. The red standard was now unfurled, and when lowered or tore down, it was only to steep it in the deep crimson of human blood. It was in vain that the spirit of freedom, the love of liberty, innate courage, retaliative desperation, continued to sustain the enslaved Pole in his struggle for emancipation; he too had the sympathy of admiring nations, amongst them England and France, to encourage him; but the mighty arm of the colossal power he had to struggle with, ultimately laid him prostrate on the earth. At first the liberal and commiserating portion of spectators hoped, nay believed, that Poland, like the giant at the feet of Hercules, only lay in the process of respiration, and would again spring up and struggle with the demigod. But she seems to have exceeded the period of resuscitation, and now to be laid in the sleep of death. Poland is no longer reckoned amongst the kingdoms of Europe; she has sunk into a province of the Russian empire.

The affairs of Belgium obtained more definite attention from the first-rate kingdoms of Europe. The autocrat of Russia invited the four other great powers to co-operate with him in bringing the Belgian contest to a humane and satisfactory close. Plenipotentiaries from all the interested parties met in London, and, after much delay and interruption, published a protocol, declaring, "that the events of the last four months had unhappily demonstrated that the perfect and complete amalgamation which the powers desired to effect between Holland and Belgium had not been obtained; that it would henceforth be impossible to effect it; that therefore the very object of the union of Holland

with Belgium was destroyed, and that it now became indispensable to have recourse to other arrangements, to accomplish the intentions which the union in question was designed to carry into execution." The protocol further declared, that new arrangements were necessary, but not such as would effect in any manner the rights which the King of the Netherlands and the Germanic Confederation exercised over the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The representation of the five great powers at London also decided that the navigation of the Scheldt should be free from the 20th of January; and at the same instant the minister for foreign affairs in France, in his place in the chamber, declared, "that the free navigation of rivers was a principle France had proclaimed, and which she would cause to be respected."

The Belgian provisional government assented to all, except the recognition of obligations growing out of any treaty with the King of the Netherlands, in which the case of Luxembourg was included: and the Dutch indignantly rejected the proposition for leaving the navigation of the Scheldt open.

It certainly did appear extraordinary, that England should become a party to the measure of opening the Scheldt, having, on so many occasions, taken up arms to prevent an act, which, if carried into effect, must inevitably prove the ruin of Holland, and be injurious to herself. The immediate result would be, the sudden elevation of Antwerp to a superiority over Amsterdam, and a high rank amongst the commercial towns of western Europe—the very objects which the Emperor Joseph had in view, when sovereign of Brabant; and, at which the French republicans first, and Napoleon afterwards, aimed, when the ambition of universal dominion set the obligations of national mo-

rality and the faith of treaties at defiance. At the beginning of the first revolution in France, the free navigation of the Scheldt was openly insisted upon by the assembly, and as firmly resisted by the English ministry; but there were, in both houses of parliament, influential men, advocates for yielding up this point, as an object not worth the hazard of a war. It should be observed, that William IV., when this very subject came under discussion in the House of Lords in 1793, strenuously and most ably demonstrated the necessity of keeping the Scheldt closed, for the preservation of our Dutch ally against the encroachments of France; lest Antwerp might become, as it once had been, a mart of foreign commerce, which would be followed by its annexation to the French dominion, whether monarchical or republican.

If there was any justice in this conduct formerly, it was an imperative duty, upon the principles of national faith, in the present case, when Belgium, which had been united to Holland in virtue of a treaty formed and guaranteed by the allied powers, now broke off the connexion, to the manifest injury of the Dutch sovereign and people. The union of the two states was impolitic in the first instance, and contrary to the choice of the Belgians; but the act did not proceed from the prince who was made to suffer by it, but from the allied powers, whose ministers were at this time assembled in London to sanction the separation, and administer impartial justice. Embarrassment, dissatisfaction, and jealousy, lengthened out the proceedings, and multiplied the decisions, till the word *protocol* became a term, in the diplomatic vocabulary, for protracted consultation, and indeterminate conclusion.

Such was the state of our foreign relations on the re-assembling of parliament; and our domestic position was not

accompanied with more ease, or better prospects of repose. The agitation of the anti-union question in Ireland kept up the feverish anxiety of a people easily excited, and during seven centuries oppressed by unequal laws; and that tendency to separation was increased, the gulf between the oppressors and the oppressed expanded, the wounds inflicted made to bleed afresh, by the individual efforts of Mr. O'Connell.

Meetings proposed to be held, under various pretexts of political discussion, by public advertisement, in different cities and counties, was addressed in an admonitory manner by Mr. Stanley, the secretary for Ireland. This circular declared, emphatically, that government had no intention of suppressing the peaceful expression of public opinion at constitutional assemblies, legally convened, but that it was the firm determination of the Lord Lieutenant to guard against any abuse of the exercise of constitutional rights, that was likely to occasion a violation of the law or breach of the public peace. On Christmas-day, a proclamation was issued, prohibiting a meeting of "the trades' union," for the 27th of the month, at Phibsborough. Mr. O'Connell said that the object of this meeting was to petition for a repeal of the union; but the circumstance of the repealers being directed to carry orange and green banners, and parade from the place of assemblage through the principal streets, justly alarmed the Viceroy for the safety of his Majesty's subjects. In consequence of this interruption, the trades' union assembled in front of the "Parliamentary Intelligence office," in Stephen-street, where they were addressed from one of the windows by the great agitator; and afterwards a deputation being brought into his immediate presence, he advised that "they should now work for themselves—and agitate in peace and union."

New schemes of agitation were daily, almost hourly, suggested by the promoter of the opposition to the existing union of Great Britain with Ireland ; but each was still met by a prohibitory proclamation from the head of the Irish government. Amongst the evasive names of the various existing assemblies, are found, "The society for preventing secret associations, and protecting the right of petitioning," "The Parliamentary Intelligence office meetings," "Election clubs, to communicate with a central committee in Dublin." As the proclamation of Lord Anglesey embraced every species of unconstitutionally assembled club, two magistrates entered the breakfast-room, and in the instant that political discussion superseded further indulgence in the entertainment set before the company, dissolved and dispersed the meeting. Further trifling with public time and temper was checked by a still more decided step on the part of government, on the 18th of January, when Messrs. O'Connell, Barrett, Steele, Reynolds, and Lawless, were arrested on warrants charging them with conspiring to evade the laws, and with holding meetings in defiance of the various proclamations issued by the Lord Lieutenant. They were severally held to bail—Mr. O'Connell in £1000 himself, and £1000 by two sureties in moieties, and bound to appear in the Court of King's Bench. In the course of the following month, by the energy and conspicuous legal knowledge of Mr. Blackburn, the attorney-general for Ireland, this remarkable case was brought to a conclusion ; Mr. O'Connell and his associates suffering judgment to go by default, upon which the crown entered a *nolle prosequi* upon the general count of "conspiracy to excite sedition," &c.

In England, an unsettled feeling, amongst the peasantry in particular, ripened into results mischievous and melancholy. Many counties were kept in continual anxiety by

the perpetration of midnight crimes: houses, corn-stacks, barns, machinery, were burned and destroyed—the militia embodied—special commissions for delivering the crowded jails issued—and a form of prayer drawn up by the heads of the church, for the restoration of domestic peace and happiness. By human exertion, aided by a benevolent Providence, the troubled waters became allayed, and the minister found an hour of rest, to lay before his country a measure of greater consequence to its future domestic happiness, than any that had been submitted to that house for more than a century.

Earl Grey, in presenting petitions from various places, in favour of parliamentary reform, observed, that “though his opinions did not go the length of acceding to every proposition contained in the petitions, yet that, in the propriety of the general measure of Parliamentary Reform, he entirely concurred. In the present parliament he had stated, that at an early period of his life he was convinced, and now, after giving the subject much consideration, he was of the same opinion, that salutary effects would ensue if a constitutional reform was carried. Although this important question was surrounded with difficulties, ministers had at last succeeded in framing a measure that corresponded with the prayer of the petitions; and which would be effective, without exceeding the bounds of a just and well-advised moderation.” His lordship concluded by stating that this measure had the “unanimous assent and concurrence of the whole government.” Viscount Melbourne embraced a similar opportunity of expressing his approbation of the measure about to be proposed, and made some remarks as to the remedial measures to be adopted towards Ireland in the course of that session. On the same evening Lord Chancellor Brougham gave notice of his intention to

introduce a bill for the better administration of justice in the court of chancery, and in the estates and effects of bankrupts, from the latter of which originated soon after the establishment of the court so called.

The proceedings adopted by Lord Althorp, in the House of commons, corresponded with those of Earl Grey; but his lordship stated the intentions of government more explicitly, and at greater length. He informed the house that his Majesty's government would be prepared to submit the plan, by which they proposed to reform the representation, on the first of March. He wished also to state, that government had determined to depute Lord John Russell, the paymaster of the forces, to bring the question forward. The noble lord had been selected for that task, in consequence of the ability and perseverance which he had displayed in the cause of reform, in days when it was unpopular. His noble friend had proposed various partial measures of reform, when even partial measures were looked upon with disfavour; now, therefore, when the cause was prosperous, the government thought that the noble lord was the fittest person to introduce a *measure of full and efficient reform*, instead of the partial ones which he had hitherto proposed.

In answer to a question put by Sir Charles Wetherell, whether the paymaster of the forces, to whom was delegated the duty of introducing the measure of parliamentary reform, was a member of the government? Lord Althorp said he would answer at once, that his noble friend was not a member of the government; but if the honourable and learned gentleman meant to imply by his question, that the plan of reform, to be submitted to the House, had not the full concurrence of the government, one and all, he was completely in error. The course was

not without precedent, as Mr. Burke, when paymaster of the forces, brought forward his famous plan for the reform of the civil expenditure of the country.

On the 4th of February the chancellor of the exchequer made his first important essay as a finance minister, by presenting to the House of Commons the ministerial estimates of the civil list. Its explanation was connected with the dissolution of the last ministry and accession of the present, a subject that had been very sufficiently discussed before, so that his statement included nothing of novelty or curiosity, beyond the amount of proposed reductions, or the principle of new classification. In the arrangements of the Wellington administration, the civil list included the expenses incurred for the King's personal comfort, the splendour of the crown, salaries of ambassadors, judges, and other officers, an arrangement that existed since the reign of Queen Anne. The new chancellor of the exchequer departed from the ancient usage, including in the civil list those expenses, and those only, which contribute to the comfort of the sovereign or relate to the splendour of his crown. This disposition prevents misconception as to the actual expenditure of the royal establishment, and anticipates exaggerations that contribute to discontent. Lord Althorp's proposition would probably be attended with a saving of £20,000, to the country: in effecting which, the King was deprived of gratifying his affections, and rewarding his faithful servants by the same means that had been placed at the disposal of his predecessors, being restricted to the control of about £75,000 on the pension list, as they should fall, the remaining moiety to become a saving to the country. Every British sovereign has usually been granted what is called "an outfit for his Queen:" the late Queen Charlotte was allowed £54,000 annually. The zeal of

subserviency, sometimes the hopes of spoliation, and frequently the ardour of honest affection, have united in offering this tribute to the new sovereign for his Royal consort. William IV. was the first King who said, "I'll have none of it!" and in so doing has shown a generous and conceding spirit. It was this reputation that went before him, and raised him with so much joy to the throne; it was the remembrance of the same spirit that caused his ashes to be followed with so much sorrow to the tomb.

The interval between the presentation of the civil list and bringing forward of the budget, was filled by the attacks of Lord King upon the tithe system, and its defence by the learned prelates at the head of the established church. Mr. O'Gorman Mahon interrupted the repose of the lower house by a vituperation of the Irish government, and an open avowal of hostility to the legislative union of these kingdoms. Both sides of the house convinced the learned gentleman of the efficacy of union, for they, unitedly, animadverted upon the insanity of his proposal for its dissolution.

On the 11th of the same month, the chancellor of the exchequer, in bringing forward the budget, began with enumerating two hundred and ten places under government, which it was proposed to reduce, or abolish altogether; reductions attended with an economy of patronage rather than of public money. These reductions, the noble lord said, would leave a surplus revenue of £300,000, which he considered as much too low. His lordship then proceeded to state the taxes he meant to reduce; the first of which was on tobacco, both raw and manufactured; and the next tax to be reduced was, that on newspapers; the imposts to be abolished were on sea-borne coals, on tallow candles, on printed cottons, and on glass; the whole amounting to four millions: to make up for the deficiency, it was

proposed to equalize the duty on all foreign wines, including that of the Cape, at the rate of 5s. 6d. per gallon; the tax upon timber, whether imported from the Baltic or Canada, was also deemed capable of a considerable addition. The next object of taxation was one penny per pound on raw cotton, allowing a drawback on exports. He intended also to lay a tax upon passengers in steam-boats, according to the distances; lastly, the noble lord proposed a duty of one half per cent on all *bona fide* transfers of funded property, and the same upon sales of land. By these several means, his lordship calculated there would be a surplus revenue of £450,000, more than sufficient to cover all the reductions.

This financial scheme gave dissatisfaction. It was considered extraordinary that tobacco, a foreign weed, should be so highly estimated as to meet with indulgence, while articles of necessity were still suffered to bear a heavy impost. Newspapers also, being objects of luxury, came under the same description; but the proposed new duties, and alterations of existing ones, elicited the most decided opposition.

Mr. Ward, one of the city members, declared that the suggested tax upon funded property would spread general alarm and dismay. Sir Robert Peel followed to the same purport, and said, that it would be a breach of the public faith, and its adoption would tarnish the fair fame of the country; and the Duke of Buckingham called it a revolutionary measure. Ministers made a feeble defence of this valuable proposition; and three days afterwards gave up this part of their plan, retaining, in lieu of it, the duties upon tobacco and glass. The proposed tax upon steam navigation was also abandoned; and when that upon timber came under consideration in committee, ministers were left

in a minority of forty-six, the numbers being 236 against 190, on the division. The equalization of the wine duties, and the tax upon cotton wool, were also resisted with so much vigour, both in and out of parliament, that the financial scheme was completely broken up, and no other substituted in its stead during the session.

The chancellor of the exchequer submitted to parliament certain statements relating to the building and completion of Buckingham Palace, and the furniture of Windsor Castle. Notwithstanding the enormous sum that had been expended on its erection, a large amount would still be requisite before that unsightly building could be declared finished; and the learned chancellor acknowledged, in which sentiment he enjoyed the full concurrence of the house, that under no possible circumstances could it ever be rendered a palace such as a monarch, or any gentleman of taste, could desire to live in. The original estimate was £496,000, to which £3,500 was added for sculpture; but at midsummer, 1830, the expenditure reached the sum of £576,353, an excess above the estimate of £76,000. Mr. Nash, the architect, still required £120,000, to bring this deformed and tasteless structure to that consummation, for which no one but himself sincerely wished. The estimate for refurnishing Windsor Castle was also exceeded by £61,000. These papers became the subject of parliamentary inquiry, being referred to a committee, and several members expressed themselves in terms of indignation at such a wanton waste of public money.

The 1st of March, 1831, will be long memorable in the parliamentary annals of Great Britain, as the day on which the measure of Parliamentary Reform, ultimately adopted, was first brought forward by Lord John Russell, paymaster of the forces. His lordship observed, at the opening of

his speech, "that the measure he was about to announce had been formed by the noble Earl (Grey) then at the head of his Majesty's government, who had communicated it to his colleagues, by whom it had been absolutely approved and adopted. He declared that the ministers had no design to shake the settled institutions of the country; they were of opinion that those institutions, resting, as they had heretofore done, in the confidence and love of Englishmen, must continue to stand on the same foundation; and, while they disclaimed the notion of complying with extravagant and violent demands, they at the same time wished to place the measure fully before the house,—they wished to place themselves between the two hostile parties; neither agreeing with the bigoted, on the one hand, that no Reform was necessary, nor with the fanaticism of others, that one species of Reform only would be accepted by the country, or contributory to its renovation. His lordship gave it as his opinion, that the Commons house of parliament no longer enjoyed the confidence of the people,—that half measures of Reform would not meet the emergencies and wants of the country,—that the plan he then proposed was calculated to maintain the stability of the throne, to give strength to the parliament, and satisfaction to the people."

The ministerial plan of Reform had three distinct objects in view: 1. As regarded those boroughs, the returns from which were controlled by individual nomination. 2. The return of members for close boroughs. 3. The expense of elections.

To remedy the first evil, it was proposed to disfranchise all boroughs, the population of which did not amount to two thousand, according to the census of 1821. This would disfranchise sixty boroughs. Again, it was agreed by ministers, that all those boroughs, not containing four

thousand inhabitants, should be restricted to the election of one representative, instead of two, as formerly; and that Weymouth, which before sent four members to parliament, should henceforth return only two. This would cut off one hundred and sixty-eight from the original number of members of parliament. The remedy proposed for the second evil complained of by his lordship was, that each inhabitant householder, at rents of £10 and upwards, should have the privilege of a vote, but that present electors should retain their right of franchise for life. To remedy the inconvenience to which some members of parliament sustained from the expense of elections, it was proposed to limit the duration of elections to two days, and to have lists of all voters prepared previously. With respect to counties, the rights of 40s. freeholders were to remain inviolate, but the privilege of voting for county members should be extended to copyholders of £10 per annum, and leaseholders for twenty-one years of £50 rent, provided the lease had not been granted within the last two years. County elections also were to be limited to two days: towns were to be selected in various but convenient positions, at which the votes should be tendered and received, and no voter should be required to travel more than fifteen miles from his own residence to the appointed polling place. Ministers considered the number of members returned to parliament inconveniently great, wherefore they deemed it inexpedient to fill up the whole of the one hundred and sixty-eight vacancies, created by the proposed arrangement, but would consent to the filling up of one hundred and six of the vacancies, by representatives from Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, and other manufacturing and densely peopled places; also by members from the unrepresented but populous districts of London, namely, two from Finsbury, two from

the Tower Hamlets, two from Marylebone, and two from Lambeth. Large counties were also to be granted additional members. One member was to be granted to the Isle of Wight; populous unrepresented towns in Wales were to become contributory with the nearest borough in returning a representative, and in a few instances new borough districts were to be created.

The Reform, in the Scotch representation, suggested the union of Peebles and Selkirk in returning one member. Dunbarton and Bute, Elgin and Nairne, Ross and Cromarty, Orkney and Shetland, Clackmannan and Kinross, to possess the same privilege. The remaining twenty-two counties to return one member each. Edinburgh and Glasgow to return two members each; Aberdeen, Paisley, Leith, Greenock, and Dundee, one. East-Fife, burgh district, was to merge in the county; the remaining thirteen burghs to send one member each. The qualification for counties to be ownership of land or houses worth £10 a year, or holding as tenant at the annual value of £50, on lease of nineteen years or upwards: for burghs, the occupancy of a dwelling worth £10 per annum to be sufficient.

As Ireland was very fully represented, it was proposed to add one member to Belfast, Limerick, and Waterford; a member was subsequently added to the University of Dublin, which now sends two representatives to parliament.

The general result, expressed numerically, would then have been—

Existing number of members	.	.	.	.	658
Proposed diminution	.	.	.	.	162
					<hr/> 490
Added for Scotland	5				
Ireland	3				
Wales & England	98	.	.	.	106
					<hr/>
Total					596

While the number of members of parliament was diminished, an increase was made to the number of electors of about 500,000 souls, according to the statement of Lord John Russell, the proposer of the bill. The measure was seconded by Sir John Sebright, who denied that it would destroy the power of the aristocracy, adding, that he felt no sympathy for that portion of the nobility that knew nothing and cared nothing for the people. He declared his conviction, that the Reform proposed would give security to the throne, stability to parliament and the constitution, and strength and peace to the country.

The first reading of the first Reform bill, which is substantially identical with the bill that afterwards passed both houses, was opposed by Sir Robert Peel, Sir Robert Inglis, Mr. Goulburn, Mr. F. Shaw, and other leading oppositionists. The opponents of the measure rejected indignantly, and with truth, the imputation that the people of this country, that is, the poor, had ever been neglected by the aristocracy; on the contrary, that the nobility had always proved their most generous, humane, and tender protectors: they denied, with equal confidence, that the throne of William IV. ever lost its stability; on the contrary, they believed that no British sovereign reigned more entirely in the affections of his subjects, and declared that the necessity for Reform, whether such existed or not, did not rest on, or originate in the arguments of its noble proposer. The more enthusiastic and less prudent antagonists of the measure designated the bill as a violation of chartered rights, a revolutionary movement, calculated to throw the franchise into the hands of shopkeepers, small attorneys, country clerks, shallow politicians, and advocates for the total abolition of taxes.

The debate was continued with unexampled warmth by both sides of the house, on the 2d, 3d, 4th, 7th, 8th, and

9th, when this bold and comprehensive measure obtained the approbation of a majority in the house, and leave was granted to bring in a bill to amend the representation of England and Wales. Leave was soon after given to bring in similar bills for Scotland and Ireland.

On the assembling of the house, on the 21st of March, the day appointed for the second reading of the Reform bill, Sir Robert Inglis complained of a libellous paragraph which appeared in the Times newspaper, which he caused to be read aloud by the clerk of the house: it was as follows:—

“When, night after night, borough nominees rise to infest the proceedings of the House of Commons with arguments to justify their own intrusion into it, and their continuance there, thus impudently maintaining what the lawyers call “an adverse possession,” in spite of judgment against them; we really feel inclined to ask, why the rightful owners of the house should be longer insulted by the presence of such unwelcome inmates? It is beyond question a piece of the broadest and coolest effrontery in the world, for these hired lacqueys of public delinquents to stand up as advocates of the disgraceful service they have embarked in.”

The honourable member moved to have certain numbers of this leading journal referred to his Majesty’s attorney-general; which motion, after a brief but very animated debate, he thought proper to withdraw.

The second reading of the Reform bill succeeded the withdrawal of the motion relative to the Times journal; and, after a renewed opposition, in which Sir R. Vyvyan and Mr. F. Shaw took active parts, the latter declaring, “that the axe was applied to the tree of the constitution, which in its fall would tear up, root and branch, the chartered liberties of many a British freeman,” on proceeding to a division, the ministers obtained a majority of *one*! Ministers seldom proceed upon such a

dence. Under all circumstances, it has been considered most advisable to assign Marlborough House for the accommodation of the Queen. I therefore move, 'That it is the opinion of this committee, that there be granted as a provision for her Majesty, in case of her surviving the King, the sum of one hundred thousand pounds per annum for life, to support her royal dignity; and that Bushy-Park and Marlborough House be also assigned as residences for her Majesty during her life.' "

The motion was then agreed to without a dissentient voice, but nothing further was done in the business in that parliament.

On Monday the 18th, Lord John Russell concluded an elaborate speech, in which he stated that the diminution in the number of representatives, as the Reform bill then stood, would amount to *thirty-one* only, by moving the order of the day, that the house do resolve itself into a committee, to consider the provisions of the bill for the amendment of the representation of England and Wales.

Upon this, General Gascoyne, member for Liverpool, rose, and maintained that the bill, as now proposed, was totally different from that which the noble author had first introduced. When his lordship first brought forward the measure, he proposed to increase the number of the representatives for Scotland, and to diminish the number of those for England by no less than sixty-two members: whereas now, he proposed to cut off thirty-one only.

The gallant general, having dwelt at some length upon the changes which had taken place in the projected revolutionary scheme, and inferred from thence that there was no stable principle in it, moved,

"That in the opinion of this house, the total number of knights, citizens, and burgesses, returned to parliament for that part of the United Kingdom called England and Wales, ought not to be diminished."

This motion produced a very vehement debate, which was adjourned to the following day, when the house divided on the original motion, which was negatived; the numbers being for the bill as it stood, 291—and for General Gascoyne's proposition, 299; leaving ministers in a minority of eight.

On the 21st Sir Richard Vyvyan concluded a very caustic speech, with asking the chancellor of the exchequer, "Whether it was the intention of his Majesty's ministers to proceed with the bill, or to advise the King to dissolve this parliament because the house had not consented to reduce the number of English representatives?"

Lord Althorp said, "I have no hesitation in stating, in answer to the honourable baronet's question, that, having taken into consideration the necessary effect and consequence of the vote of the House the other night, it is not the intention of his Majesty's government to proceed with the bill. It would be inconsistent with my duty to give any answer to the latter part of the honourable baronet's question."

No doubt, however, remained, that a dissolution had already been determined on by the cabinet; and the following day decided the fate of the first parliament of William the Fourth, after a duration of six months only.

Although it was generally believed that the ministry had persuaded the King to make an appeal to the people on this question, it was not expected that his Majesty would perform that duty in person; premature dissolutions, under circumstances of royal displeasure, having generally (always during the reign of George the Fourth,) since the reign of Charles the First, been performed by commission. In the present anomalous case, the King, of his own accord, resolved to deviate from the ordinary usage, in order to shew the

perfect confidence which he reposed in his ministers, and his entire approval of their measures.

At half past two o'clock on Friday, the speaker of the House of Commons took the chair, when

Sir Richard Vyvyan rose, and said, that, as they were on the eve of a dissolution, he wished to make a few observations. His Majesty's ministers, he said, had, for the first time during many years, after the vote of the preceding night, which hindered them from bringing forward the ordnance estimates, determined to dissolve the parliament. It might happen, however, at no great distance of time, that they would have bitterly to repent the course they had taken. Let them look well then to the awful responsibility which they incurred, when they adopted measures that might compromise the safety of their families, their property, and all that was dear to them. It was useless to disguise the fact, that they were on the eve of a revolution. Ministers had proceeded in their present course, to catch at popularity—a fleeting, uncertain popularity, which could not be depended on for an hour. He would tell them on what grounds they had come into power: there was in the last two years an influential party of men, who were dissatisfied with the proceedings of that house. They wanted to see a strong body of efficient persons in the government. They saw with regret, that motions made for inquiry into the distresses of the country were defeated; they lamented that all motions of that nature were rendered useless. Ministers knew as well as he did, that they came into power through the weight of the body of men of whom he was then speaking. It was that body, and not the present ministers, who turned out the preceding ministry. He would tell them also, that it was not reform that effected the change. It was neither that question, nor the declaration of the noble duke, then at the head of the government, which effected the removal of the late cabinet. No; it was the general wish of the country, that its distressed situation should be inquired into—it was the desire, the anxious desire, of those who complained of the misfortunes under which the nation laboured, that those calamities should be investigated and remedied; it was these feelings that produced a change of administration. But it could not escape observation, that the present men had not done one thing to satisfy the public expectations. They were the most incapable, the most inconsistent body of men that ever attempted to govern a great country; making and moulding measures one day, and altering and

abandoning them the next. Even that very bill of reform was to be withdrawn, because ministers would not allow men to vote that England should continue to send the same number of members to parliament as at present. The present ministers, he admitted, took office with the feelings of the House of Commons in their favour; and they well knew, that, without such favour, they had not a majority of their own party. They were tried, and found wanting; and now, finding that they could not secure a majority, they dissolved parliament, on a question of great and general excitement, evidently for the purpose of keeping themselves in power: finally, if ministers ultimately carried their Reform bill, the repeal of the Union would follow, in consequence of the superior advantages given to the Catholics over the Protestants in the representation of that country; that a succession of changes would rapidly succeed, to the destruction of the funded property and that of the church, which probably would end in the subversion of the monarchy itself.

Whilst the report of the cannon announced the approach of the King, Sir Robert Peel claimed the attention of the house; but the tumult was so great, the report of each gun being succeeded by a deafening groan or cheer, that he could not, at first, obtain a hearing; when order had been restored, however, under much evident excitement he observed,

If that were the way in which they were to proceed in future, let the people of England beware of the consequence. If their reformed parliament was to be elected, if the "Bill, the whole Bill," were to be passed, it did appear to him that there would then be established one of the worst despotisms that ever existed. They would have a parliament of mob demagogues, not a parliament of wise and prudent men. At that moment, society was wholly disorganized in the west of Ireland; and that disorganization was rapidly extending elsewhere. At this critical juncture, instead of doing their duty, and calling for measures to secure life and property from sanguinary barbarians, ministers, anxious only to protect themselves, had recourse to a dissolution of parliament. The powers of the crown had ceased, for he felt that it would no longer be an object of fair ambition with any consistent man to enter into the public service. He did not complain of the dissolution, so much as of the manner in which it was done. It was an insult to the House. A Reformed Parliament would give the country to the government of dema-

gogues, and reduce it to a state of despotism. The present ministers had shewn the greatest imbecility ever displayed in the high situations to which they had been called."

This speech was interrupted by the appearance of Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, usher of the black rod, commanding the attendance of the speaker and members at the bar of the House of Lords.

We must now take a view of the extraordinary scene which had been previously enacted in the upper house of parliament. Their lordships met at three o'clock, and the house was numerously attended. Many of the peers were in their robes; but the rest appeared without the distinctions of their respective ranks, and all in disorder, from the suddenness of the announcement of the King's intention of coming down.

In the most unsettled periods of our history, there can hardly be found such an instance of extraordinary and sudden abandonment of the deliberative character. The courtesies of society were violated on all sides, and personalities, amounting almost to rude modes of expression, passed amongst their lordships during the clamour and disorganization.

The Lord Chancellor having left the woolsack for the purpose of receiving his Majesty, whose arrival had been announced by the guns in the park, the Earl of Shaftesbury took the chair; upon which the Duke of Richmond rose to order, saying, that their lordships ought to be in their places. This produced further confusion, and, in the midst of the uproar for order, a peer, supposed to be Lord Lyndhurst, made a remark, which drew from the Duke of Richmond a motion, that the standing order against offensive language should be read. In the increased storm which followed, the Marquis of Londonderry said,

“That the noble Duke seemed to think he was to be the hero of the *coup de état* on this occasion; and that he was able to smother that feeling which was essential to the expression of the sentiments of noble lords at this extraordinary crisis. It seemed that the noble Duke endeavoured to stop the right of peers of that house to declare their sentiments, by having recourse to the miserable shift of moving the standing orders.”

Here there was a tumultuous cry of ‘Order, order,’ during which Lord Wharncliffe rose, and read an address, the purport of which was, to “represent to his Majesty, under the extraordinary circumstances in which the country was placed, and the excitement now subsisting, that it appeared to this house, that a prorogation or dissolution of parliament would be attended with great danger to his Majesty’s crown and dignity, as well as to the country.” Loud cheers followed the reading of this address. At this moment the Lord Chancellor entered, and said,

“My Lords, I have never yet heard it doubted that the King possessed the prerogative of dissolving parliament at pleasure; still less have I ever known a doubt to exist on the subject, at a moment when the lower house has thought fit to refuse the supplies.”

This declaration drew forth loud shouts and exclamations of “The King!” upon which the chancellor went out again to wait upon his Majesty. In the interval, the Earl of Mansfield took the opportunity of mentioning the advice he had given to the King.

He had stated, that if his Majesty should be unfortunately advised to adopt the present measure, with a view to a revival of the bill in an amended form, and should give his assent to a dissolution of parliament, such a proceeding would be so pregnant with danger, that he was certain, though he could not predict either the manner or the gradation of the attack, that an attack would afterwards be made upon the credit of the country, on the national debt, and then upon the privileges and the very existence of that house, and at last upon the privileges and existence of the crown itself; those privileges which the crown did

not hold for its own benefit, but for the happiness and interests of the people. He felt great pleasure in making this communication with reference to his own conduct, at a time when popular clamour was at its height; and if, in defence of that conduct and his opinions, any words had escaped him personally offensive to any noble lord, he should regret the circumstance, whilst at the same time he felt himself bound to make this statement on his own behalf. He accused the ministers of conspiring against the state, by making the King a party to his own destruction.

Here loud cries of "The King! the King!" announced the approach of his Majesty, who entered, habited in the uniform of an admiral, and took his seat on the throne. The House of Commons being summoned, a numerous body of members appeared at the bar, headed by the speaker, who addressed the King as follows:—

"May it please your Majesty, we, your Majesty's faithful Commons, approach your Majesty with profound respect;—and, Sire, in no period of our history have the Commons House of Parliament more faithfully responded to the real feelings and interests of your Majesty's loyal, dutiful, and affectionate people;—while it has been their earnest desire to support the dignity and honour of the crown, upon which depend the greatness, the happiness, and the prosperity of this country."

The Speaker then presented the civil list and several other bills, which received the royal assent, when the King, in a firm tone of voice, read the following speech from the throne:—

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"I have come to meet you for the purpose of proroguing this Parliament, with a view to its immediate dissolution.

"I have been induced to resort to this measure, for the purpose of ascertaining the sense of my people in the way in which it can be most constitutionally and authentically expressed, on the expediency of making such changes in the representation as circumstances may appear to require, and which, founded upon the acknowledged principles of the constitution, may tend at once to uphold the just rights and prerogatives of the crown, and to give security to the liberties of the people."

“ GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

“ I thank you for the provision you have made for the maintenance of the honour and dignity of the crown, and I offer you my special acknowledgments for the arrangements you have made for the state and comfort of my Royal Consort. I have also to thank you for the supplies which you have furnished for the public service.

“ I have observed with satisfaction, your endeavours to introduce a strict economy into every branch of that service ; and I trust that the early attention of a new Parliament, which I shall direct forthwith to be called, will be applied to the prosecution of that important subject.”

“ MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“ I am happy to inform you, that the friendly intercourse which subsists between myself and foreign powers, affords the best hopes of the continuance of peace, to the preservation of which my most anxious endeavours will be constantly directed.”

“ MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“ In resolving to recur to the sense of my people in the present circumstances of the country, I have been influenced only by a paternal anxiety for the contentment and happiness of my subjects ; to promote which, I rely with confidence on your continued and zealous assistance.”

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty’s command, rose and said :

“ My Lords and Gentlemen—It is his Majesty’s royal will and pleasure that the parliament be prorogued to Tuesday the 10th day of May next, to be then here holden : and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday the 10th day of May next.”

After the prorogation, the King left the house ; and, on his return to St. James’s, he was enthusiastically cheered by the people, who suddenly changed their mode of testifying their approbation to a loud and simultaneous clapping of hands.

The next day parliament was dissolved by proclamation, and the new one appointed to meet on the 14th of June.

Many anecdotes were circulated respecting the King's determination to carry his point by supporting ministers on this occasion. The two following are, perhaps, characteristic of his firmness.

So suddenly was the King's determination to prorogue parliament in person, taken, that it was found impossible to get the cream-coloured state-horses in readiness; and the black Hanoverian horses were, in consequence, substituted. When he first ordered the horses for three o'clock, he was told that they could not be ready by that time. "No ! then I will go down in a hackney-coach ; I shall then, at any rate, be the first sovereign of England who rode in a *jarvey* to prorogue parliament."

When the King was in the act of attiring himself in the robing room, two of the lords in waiting, as usual, offered to assist in placing the crown upon his head; which he declined, saying, " No, no ; on this occasion I will place the crown upon my head, without assistance."

CHAPTER V.

1831.

THIS sudden dissolution of parliament was followed by the most violently contested elections ever witnessed in the British isles. The greatest political question that agitated the people of England, for more than one hundred years, was then at issue. The electoral body was left to decide this vital issue in consequence of the straight-forward, constitutional, and patriotic conduct of King William, in dissolving and convening Parliament with so short an interval of delay. Ministers were successful in their attempt to ascertain the general feeling of the electoral body throughout the kingdom, for the great struggle was closed by the return of a very considerable majority favourable to reform—demonstrating thereby an extraordinary truth, that, in the *unreformed* Parliament a large majority could be obtained, constitutionally, in favour of a popular measure, and that the house could not, before the reform Bill became law, any more than at present, resist the reasonable wishes of the people.

Whilst matters were progressing in this manner at home, the British government was called upon to vindicate the honour of the national flag, and protect the rights of British subjects abroad. Don Miguel, the usurper of the throne of Portugal, with as little regard to his own interests as to the principles of justice, ventured to seize British property on the high seas, and to imprison resident natives of this country at Lisbon, without any charge, and in despite of all

remonstrances from the English consul and factory. For these injuries, satisfaction had been repeatedly demanded, but refused; on which, after long forbearance, ministers sent a squadron of eight ships, which appeared off the bar at the entrance of the Tagus on the 25th of April, and in three days brought the Portuguese government to submission. The conditions complied with were—compensation to all the parties who had been wronged; the dismissal of the Portuguese judge-conservator of Oporto, Canciro, and Sa, who had been instrumental to the injuries committed; a recognition of the officer (Joao Manuel de Oleveira) elected by the British merchants, and a public acknowledgment of the offences in the royal gazette of Lisbon.

About the same time, the French government, and that of the United States, inflicted a still heavier judgment upon the Portuguese tyrant, for his conduct towards the shipping and people of their respective countries, and obtained pecuniary indemnity in every instance.

While these transactions were taking place in Portugal, the spirit of revolution, that had desolated South America for twenty years, appeared in Brazil; which compelled the emperor Don Pedro to repair for safety, with his empress and suite, on board the *Volage* frigate, commanded by Lord Colchester; from whence he issued a proclamation, declaring, that he abdicated the throne in favour of his son, a child only five years of age, whom he recommended to the care of the nation.* On the 9th of June, Don Pedro arrived at Falmouth, and, after obtaining supplies, pro-

* The act of abdication was expressed as follows:—

“In exercise of the right which the constitution allows, I declare that I have voluntarily abdicated in favour of my much beloved and dear son, Don Pedro d’Alcantara.

“Boa Vista, 7th April.

“PEDRO.”

“10th of the Independence of the Empire.”

ceeded to Cherbourg; but soon returned, and took up his residence in London, under the title of the Duke of Braganza.

Amidst all these fluctuations and disorders, the internal state of the British empire was far from presenting a satisfactory appearance. The condition of Ireland was deplorable. The peasantry in the western districts had recourse to acts of the greatest atrocity. In the county of Clare, agricultural property, while yet in the earth, was devastated; barns were destroyed by fire, cattle houghed, and dwelling-houses demolished. Every kind of midnight violence was perpetrated, from motives which then were not distinctly understood, and since have never been explained. Many of the gentry fled from their homes, and took refuge in Limerick or Dublin. They who remained were obliged to barricade their houses, and keep guard day and night, to prevent surprise. Meanwhile, the lord lieutenant, who had visited that part of the country, issued a proclamation, calling upon the people to give up their arms; to which no regard being paid, another proclamation was published, placing the entire county under the operations of the insurrection act. Special commissions were also held at Limerick and Clare, at the latter of which places 276 persons were brought to trial for various outrages; and many were sentenced to perpetual banishment. Affrays, of desperate and sanguinary character, took place also at Castle-Pollard, in the county Westmeath, and at Newtown Barry, on the borders of Wexford. The latter was remarkable, as having caused several private gentlemen of the highest worth to withdraw altogether from Ireland, and transfer their families and property into Wales and England.

Alarming accounts were also received from our western colonies, particularly the island of Antigua, where an insur-

rection of the negroes broke out, occasioned by the suppression, without an equivalent, of the Sunday market, which had hitherto been allowed to the slaves for their peculiar benefit. Tranquillity and order could not be restored without the aid of the military power, and the execution of some of the ringleaders. At Barbadoes and other islands, an idea prevailed amongst the slaves, that the King and parliament of England had declared them free, but that liberty was still withheld from them by their masters.

To the changes which distinguished this revolutionary period, and which in some degree affected the reigning family of Great Britain, may be added the deposition of Charles, Duke of Brunswick, and the appointment of his brother William to the sovereignty. The people of Brunswick, however, had executed the decree of the Germanic diet, in expelling the young despot before his incapacity was publicly declared. The deposed prince was then at Paris, from whence he proceeded to reside with his friend, Ferdinand of Spain. This measure, so necessary for the happiness of the people of Brunswick, was principally owing to the prompt interposition of William the Fourth, King of Great Britain and Hanover.

At the commencement of May, expectations were entertained that their Majesties would gratify the citizens of London with a visit at their Guildhall. Preparations were making for the reception of the illustrious guests on the 20th, when the lord mayor received the following letter from the secretary of state :—

“South Street, May 9th, 1831.

“MY LORD.—In my letter of the 4th instant, I had the honour of conveying to your lordship the expression of his Majesty's wish, that the preparations to receive him should be suspended, until after his return to London on this day, when

the state of his Majesty's health might enable him to determine whether it would be possible for him to bear the exertion which his visit to the City would require.

"I am now commanded by his Majesty, to whom your lordship's letter of yesterday, to Lord Grey, has been submitted, to apprise your lordship, that the same cause which led his Majesty to delay receiving the invitation of the City of London on Wednesday last, unfortunately continues, and compels his Majesty, still more reluctantly, to defer receiving that invitation altogether at the present season.

"Nothing but a necessity arising from the state of his health, which I cannot doubt his Majesty's loyal and affectionate subjects of the City of London will be the first to admit to be paramount to every other consideration, could have induced his Majesty to come to a determination, which, he is well aware, and he deeply regrets it, will be the cause of great disappointment. I am, at the same time, instructed to state to your lordship, that the circumstances adverted to in your lordship's letter to Lord Grey have had no influence on his Majesty's mind on this occasion. His Majesty has been entirely satisfied by your lordship's explanation of your conduct with respect to the late illuminations; and his Majesty learned, with unqualified pleasure, that the notice, said to have been issued by your lordship, respecting the employment of the city police, was totally without foundation. This assurance, which I am authorized to convey to your lordship in the strongest terms, will, I trust, put an end to the uneasiness which the unjust imputations upon your lordship's conduct appear to have occasioned, and entirely remove from your mind the apprehension, that you could have been in any degree the cause of depriving your fellow-citizens of an honour, to which they had looked with so much anxious expectation.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"MELBOURNE."

On Friday the 6th of May, the King presented a pair of silver kettle-drums to the 2d regiment of Life Guards, on the terrace of Windsor Park. At half past ten, the regiments proceeded to the ground, the line of which was kept by the Lancers. A troop of the 1st Life Guards, and one of the Royal Blues, with the state trumpeter, were stationed in the Quadrangle. At eleven, a flourish of the

trumpet announced the royal presence, when the King descended to the grand terrace, and entered his barouche, with the Dukes of Cumberland and Gloucester, and Prince Leopold. The Queen then entered her barouche, accompanied by the Princess Augusta, and the Duchesses of Gloucester and Cumberland. Three other carriages followed, and the whole drove to the centre of the line. The kettle-drums, weighing 1,900 ounces, and of the value of £1,400, on which the royal arms and eight groups of military trophies were chased, with the words "Peninsula" and "Waterloo," were then brought to his Majesty, who delivered them to Colonel Lygon, with a very appropriate speech; to which the latter made a reply, expressive of the thanks of the regiment for the honour conferred upon them. The ceremony being over, the troops passed in review, each band playing alternately. In the evening, all the officers that had appeared on the ground were entertained in St. George's Hall.

On the 28th of the same month, the birth-day of the King was celebrated for the first time, according to the new arrangement, as the 24th of February had been in honour of her Majesty. On both occasions, but especially that appropriated to commemorate the natal day of the King, great expressions of joy were manifested, in transparencies, illuminations, and other devices, not only throughout the metropolis, but all over the kingdom. Their Majesties were also gratified by the arrival, this spring, of Queen Adelaide's only sister, the Duchess of Saxe Weimar, who spent the greatest part of the summer with her royal relatives; partly induced to remain by the agitated state of the Netherlands, where the Duke, her consort, held an important military command in the service of the King of Holland.

Sunday, the 26th of June, being the anniversary of his Majesty's accession to the throne, the same was observed with the usual demonstrations of joy. The morning was ushered in with the ringing of the church bells, which was continued throughout the day, except during the hours of divine service. The national standard was hoisted on the government buildings, and numerous vessels in the Thames and docks displayed the colours of all nations. At one o'clock, the Park and Tower guns fired a double royal salute; and in other parts of the kingdom similar marks of respect took place.

About this period, a meeting of naval officers was held at the Thatched House Tavern, in London, for establishing an institution for the education of the children of naval officers. Admiral Blackwood presided; a committee was appointed, and subscriptions, to a large amount, entered. His Majesty readily consented to become its patron; and shortly after, Dr. Bell, originator of the "Madras" system of education, presented £10,000 pounds to the institution.

The Gazette of the 12th of May contained the following announcement: "The King has been pleased to direct letters patent to be passed under the great seal, granting the dignities of Baron, Viscount, and Earl, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, unto George Fitzclarence, Esq., Colonel in the army, and the heirs male of his body, lawfully begotten, by the names, styles, and titles of Baron Tewkesbury, Viscount Fitzclarence, and Earl of Munster."

On the day after the meeting of parliament, the newly created Earl took the oaths and his seat in the House of Lords, as a peer of the realm, created by virtue of his Majesty's letters patent. The occasion caused a considerable attendance of peeresses, and other ladies of distinction;

but during the formalities, such peers as had not taken the oaths of this parliament, were not allowed to remain in the body of the house; a rigid attention to which rule compelled Sir Thomas Tyrwhit, the usher of the black rod, to remove from his seat the Duke of Wellington. Among the ladies present, was the countess of Munster, the wife of the Earl, and daughter of Lord Egremont. The earl was introduced with all the usual forms. He was dressed in his robes; preceded by Sir George Nayler, Garter King at Arms, and supported by the Earls of Denbigh and Romney. The patent was then read; wherein his Majesty describes the new peer as "my natural son;" and every time that he is mentioned, the same designation is used. While being sworn, the Earl being near-sighted, wished to lay down the Testament, to examine more closely the form of the oath; but he was told that he must retain the book in his hand, so that he had no hand disengaged, to hold the glass. This circumstance occasioned a good deal of merriment. The patent, in the event of failure of male issue, continues the title to the next eldest natural son of the King, and so on, to each of the other brothers.

It was soon after communicated to the public that, "The King had been pleased to grant to Frederick Fitzclarence, Esq., a Colonel in the army; to Adolphus Fitzclarence, Esq., a Captain in the navy; and to the Rev. Augustus Fitzclarence, respectively, the title and precedence of the younger son of a Marquis of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; and also had been pleased to grant to Sophia, then wife of Sir Philip Sidney; to Mary, wife of Charles Richard Fox, Esq., a Lieutenant Colonel in the army; and to Augusta, widow of the Honourable John Kennedy Erskine, respectively, the title and precedence of the daughter of a Marquis of the said United Kingdom. And



Portrait of the Earl of Munster

Portrait of the Earl of Munster

R^H HON^{BLE} GEORGE FITZ CLARENCE, EARL OF MUNSTER, &c &c

Munster

also to command, that the said grant be registered in his Majesty's College of Arms."

Let us now take a transient view of occurrences in those parts of the continent having any relation to Great Britain. At the beginning of the year, revolutionary symptoms manifested themselves in the kingdom of Hanover. The university of Gottingen, which had long been noted for its republican principles, did not remain an inactive observer of the events in Belgium. The professors and students united in lauding the acts of the insurgents at Brussels, and in spreading abroad doctrines calculated to excite a similar spirit among the Hanoverians. To the proclamations issued against these practices by the Duke of Cambridge, no regard was paid; on the contrary, arms continued to be forged, and attempts were made to gain over the peasants and miners of the Hartz forest. At length, the students and disaffected inhabitants closed the gates against the military, barricaded the streets, and dispersed the civil authorities.

The governor-general being thus reduced to the necessity of stronger measures, suspended the university, dismissed the students, imprisoned two of the factious professors, and surrounded the city with troops. These measures, with threats of others still heavier, if order were not restored, had the desired effect: the provisional council dissolved themselves, the king's soldiers were admitted, and the college resumed its proper academical functions.

Meanwhile the Belgians declared their independence, elected M. Surlet de Chokier president of the national congress, and persevered in debating upon the choice of a sovereign. The congress concluded its labours by electing the Duke de Nemours, second son of Louis Philippe, of France, as their future king. The votes for the Duke de Nemours

were 97—for the Duke de Luchtenburg, 74—and for the Archduke of Austria, 21. The King of the French declined the proffered crown in deference to the will of foreign powers; and the Belgian congress were obliged to resume their elective labours. The choice next fell upon Prince Leopold, of Saxe Coburg Saalfeld, who, on the 4th of June, was elected by a considerable majority. After the decision, a deputation of ten members was appointed, with instructions to proceed to London, for the purpose of announcing the important information to the Prince. His Royal Highness at first declined accepting the Belgian crown; but, after a conference with the representatives of France, Austria, Russia, and Prussia, altered his determination, and accepted the proposal of the Belgian deputies.

On Saturday, the 16th of July, the sovereign elect left London for Brussels, where he made his public entry on the following Thursday, and, in sight of the assembled people, took the oath to observe the constitution, and maintain the national independence and integrity. The day was joyously spent, and at night the city was splendidly illuminated.

Immediately after the elevation of Prince Leopold, a formal protest was made against the measure by the King of Holland, who followed up this act by a breach of the armistice that had been concluded between the conflicting parties. Thus the civic processions and festive entertainments of the King of Belgium, were converted into warlike operations; and instead of enjoying a peaceful crown, he had to fight for his own existence. In less than a month after the entrance of Leopold into Brussels, the Dutch troops, under the command of the Prince of Orange, seconded by the Duke of Saxe Weimar, appeared on the

frontiers: and a battle ensued, when the recreant Belgians betrayed the most abject cowardice, abandoned their king on the field of battle, and ingloriously fled. The brave Leopold, however, escaped, and returned, overwhelmed with chagrin, to his capital, from whence he sent expresses to the French and English courts, demanding succour. The former despatched fifty thousand men to his assistance; and the latter immediately ordered a squadron to the Downs, to be ready to act under admiral Codrington, to watch the movements of the Dutch, and prevent their entrance into the Scheldt.

And here two remarkable circumstances in the history of the illustrious families engaged in the Belgian revolution present themselves; first, that the two princes, William of Orange, and Leopold of Saxe Coburg, had been rivals for the affections of England's lamented heiress, and competitors in the field of battle for the crown of Belgium. A second, that while the King of Great Britain espoused the cause of the newly elected king, the brother of his royal consort was actually fighting by the side of the Prince of Orange.

In addition to the calamities of war, the north of Europe was at this time visited by a pestilential scourge of the most awful description, and one hitherto unknown in these regions. While the Russian armies were engaged in the attempt to subjugate Poland, the Indian cholera-morbus broke out among them, and quickly spread with deadly effect into Germany, Hungary, and the neighbouring countries. At length the contagion made its appearance in Hamburgh; passed over to the north of England; nor was the destroying plague stayed until it had laid many thousand victims prostrate before its power.

CHAPTER VI.

1831.

ON the 14th of June the new Parliament assembled, chosen according to the principles of the constitution. It was the second that had been called by King William, and its results were such as the ministers desired, the majority being confessedly in favour of reform. Charles Manners Sutton, afterwards Lord Canterbury, was unanimously re-elected speaker, having been proposed by his former competitor for the chair, Mr. Chas. Wynne, in these remarkable words, "At the present moment, when excitement without a parallel prevails, it was beyond all things important that the person selected to fill the chair should be possessed of a high and independent character—one from whom impartiality might be expected—who had ability to lay down the rules of the house—firmness to enforce them—and courtesy to impart useful information to inexperienced members."

On the 21st of June his Majesty entered the House of Peers, took his seat on the throne, and addressed both houses as follows :—

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"I have availed myself of the earliest opportunity of resorting to your advice and assistance, after the dissolution of the late parliament. Having had recourse to that measure for the purpose of ascertaining the sense of my people on the expediency of a reform in the representation, I have now to recommend that important question to your earliest and most attentive consideration; confident that, in any measures which you may prepare for its adjustment, you will carefully adhere to the acknowledged principles of the constitution, by which the prerogatives of the

crown, the authority of both houses of parliament, and the rights and liberties of the people, are equally secured.—The assurances of a friendly disposition, which I continue to receive from all foreign powers, encourage the hope that, notwithstanding the civil commotions which have disturbed some parts of Europe, and the contest now existing in Poland, the general peace will be maintained. To the preservation of this blessing my most anxious care will be constantly directed. The discussions which have taken place on the affairs of Belgium have not yet been brought to a conclusion; but the most complete agreement continues to subsist between the powers whose plenipotentiaries have been engaged in the conferences of London. The principle on which those conferences have been conducted, has been that of not interfering with the right of the people to regulate their internal affairs, and to establish their government according to their own views of what may be most conducive to their future welfare and independence, under the sole condition, sanctioned by the practice of nations, and founded on the principles of public law, that, in the exercise of that undoubted right, the security of neighbouring states should not be endangered.—A series of injuries and insults, for which, notwithstanding repeated remonstrances, all reparation was withheld, compelled me at last to order a squadron of my fleet to appear before Lisbon with a peremptory demand of satisfaction. A prompt compliance with that demand prevented the necessity of further measures: but I have to regret that I have not yet been enabled to re-establish my diplomatic relations with the Portuguese government.

“GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

“I have ordered estimates of the expenses of the current year to be laid before you, and I rely with confidence on your loyalty and zeal, to make adequate provision for the public service, as well as for the farther application of the sums granted by the last parliament: always keeping in view the necessity of a wise and wholesome economy in every branch of the public expenditure.”

“MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,”

“It gives me great satisfaction to state to you, that the large reduction of taxes which took place in the last, and in the present year, with a view to the relief of the labouring classes of the community, has not been attended with a proportionate diminution of the public income. I trust that such additional means as may be required to supply a part of the deficiency occasioned by these reductions, may be found, without any material abridgment of the comforts of my people. To assist the

industry, to improve the resources, and to maintain the credit of the country on sound principles, and on a safe and lasting foundation, will be at all times the objects of my solicitude, in the promotion of which I look with confidence to your zealous co-operation.—It is with deep concern that I have to announce to you the continued progress of a formidable disease, to which my attention had been early directed, in the eastern parts of Europe. Information having been more recently received, that it had extended its ravages to ports in the Baltic, from whence there is a great commercial intercourse with my dominions, I have directed that all the precautions should be taken which experience has recommended as most effectual for guarding against the introduction of so dangerous a malady into this country.—Great distress has unhappily prevailed in some districts, and more particularly in a part of the western counties of Ireland; to relieve which, in the most pressing cases, I have not hesitated to authorize the application of such means as were immediately available for that purpose. But assistance of this nature is necessarily limited in its amount, and can only be temporary in its effect. The possibility, therefore, of introducing any measures, which, by assisting the improvement of the natural resources of the country, may tend to prevent the recurrence of such evils, must be a subject of the most anxious interest to me, and to you of the most grave and cautious consideration. Local disturbances, unconnected with any political causes, have taken place, both in this part of the United Kingdom, and in Ireland. In the county of Clare, and in the adjoining parts of Roscommon and Galway, a system of violence and outrage has for some time been carried on, to an alarming extent; for the repression of which, the constitutional authority of the law has been vigorously and successfully exerted. By these means, the necessity of enacting new laws to strengthen the executive government with further powers, will, I trust, be prevented. To avert such a necessity has been, and ever will be, my most earnest desire; but if it should unfortunately arise, I do not doubt your firm resolution to maintain the peace and order of society, by the adoption of such measures as may be required for their more effectual protection.”

At the conclusion of the speech, his Majesty descended from the throne, and returned to St. James's amidst the universal acclamations of an immense number of spectators.

In the Lords, the address was moved by the Duke of

Norfolk, and seconded by Earl Mulgrave. In the Commons, the mover and seconder were, the Honourable Mr. Pelham, and Sir James Johnstone. After some warm altercation in the former, between the Lord Chancellor and the opposition lords, relative not only to the real, but also to the chancellor's alleged grounds for the dissolution of the late parliament; and in both houses, respecting the conduct of ministers in not acting with proper vigour to suppress the riotous proceedings occasioned by the late illuminations, as well as the assertion that the last parliament had stopped the supplies; the addresses were agreed to, without any amendment being proposed.

On the 24th, Lord John Russell, who had then obtained a seat in the cabinet, again brought forward, in the name of the government, a measure of reform; which, in their opinion, was calculated to maintain unimpaired the prerogatives of the crown, and the rights and liberties of the people. After taking a retrospective sketch of what had occurred in the late parliament, and eulogizing the spirit of patriotism manifested by the great body of electors throughout the kingdom, in the choice of independent representatives to serve in the unreformed parliament, his lordship proceeded to observe, that,

With regard to the general features and details of the measure, he did not think it necessary to enter particularly into them, because they were *substantially* the same as those of the recent bill; and as the slight alterations that had been made, were improvements intended to carry into effect its principles, it would be sufficient to leave those details till the bill went into committee. The noble lord then entered upon a historic dissertation on the representative system, stated the changes which at different periods had been made in this important part of the constitution; and adduced facts, to shew the necessity of introducing a more full reform of the abuses that, from time to time, had reduced the representation to a state unfit for such a great and enlightened country as this. His lordship

regretted to behold a majority of the members of that house returned by a few individuals. But was still more distressed that our elections should furnish occasion for the exercise of every species of perjury, drunkenness, and corruption. Looking at the matter in the light of policy and wisdom, he would say, that he was shocked to behold, in several places of great wealth and intelligence, and with a numerous population, a vast number of the people, who were qualified for the elective franchise, possessed no voice whatever in the choice of their representatives. Now, his Majesty's ministers proposed to alter this system; they proposed to place the elections for counties, cities, and boroughs, upon the true constitutional basis. About one hundred and fifty members would be sent from the counties; the great majority of which counties would be separated into two divisions, thus affording a large population to each, and presenting many advantages to the people.

The next change would bring about one hundred and eighty members from the great towns and cities, not omitting such places as Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield, and Birmingham, which were excluded from the present system. Ministers would also give representatives to the woollen manufacture, to the cotton manufacture, to the mining and coal districts, to the potteries, and to all those districts with which trade, industry, and wealth were connected. His Majesty's government felt that those important interests should have their own representatives in parliament, to watch over and protect them. His lordship observed, that when this great change should have been effected, there would be no need for a deputation from Leeds, to consult the chancellor of the exchequer respecting any proposed alteration of the laws relating to the peculiar trade and manufactures of that place. They would have, then, members in that house, who would be fully competent to explain what the general interests of trade, and the particular interests of the place they represented, demanded: thus, by carrying the present plan into effect, they would obtain a number of members in that house, who would be capable of rendering practical service to the country in parliament.

There was another class of members, the introduction of whom would add materially to the stability and welfare of the country. He alluded to a certain number of boroughs and towns, with an average population of four, five, or six thousand, which would send about one hundred members to parliament, who would not represent any particular interest, but the general interest of the nation. It had been suggested, that they should disfranchise all the boroughs, and give more members to the counties and large towns, to represent the commercial and

manufacturing interests. But, after amply providing for those interests, there was still something wanting. There was a number of persons who could not be said to belong to those interests, and who were yet worthy of seats within these walls, and highly qualified to render the nation great public service. To enable such persons, therefore, to gain admission into parliament, certain boroughs would be retained. But when he spoke of members of this description, he did not mean to imply that they should be returned by nomination. He meant that, by a fair and free election, persons obtaining the suffrages of the electors of those boroughs, would find their way into that house, and in greater number than at present.

In the first instance, it was proposed to give the right of voting to £10 householders in cities and towns, and in counties they proposed to extend it to freeholders, copyholders, and leaseholders. It was also proposed to extend the right of voting in counties to those persons who were leaseholders for a long term of years; thus rectifying an omission in the former bill; and, instead of fourteen years, the term of seven years should be sufficient for the payers of a rent of fifty pounds.

The noble lord next proceeded to notice some of the objections that had been raised against the proposed measure. It had been stated, that this plan was far more extensive than necessity required. The only answer he should give, was, that nothing short of it would satisfy the people. The inequality of the plan had also been made an objection: and it was asked, why give to Tavistock and Knaresborough as many representatives as to Halifax and Bradford? But inconsistencies of this kind were not grievances. Wherever a practical evil was pointed out, a remedy would be applied to it; but they trusted to be able to defend the want of uniformity in the plan, against those who attacked it. Some inequality there might be in the circumstance that Tavistock, with four or five thousand inhabitants, should return as many members as Halifax, that had four times the number. But was it not worse, that Gatton and Old Sarum should send as many representatives as the most populous and wealthy places? They got rid of that anomaly: and thus their plan of representation, if not quite regular, was more so than the existing system. Besides the defect of not having made a perfectly symmetrical plan, he was charged with taking an unfair basis—or endeavouring to promote the views of private interests, and to benefit particular persons. His answer was, that he took the original plan from a well-known statistical book, the work of Mr. Brown Willis; in which, however, there were many local errors.

It had been said, that he was strangely inconsistent in taking population as a basis, instead of being guided by the number of £10 houses. He had not adopted that course, because it would have involved an unfairness and an inequality in the manner of ascertaining the number of those houses. Errors had been suspected in the returns, and his anticipations proved correct. The mode adopted was to write letters to certain authorities to refer to the parish officers, and to send persons into the neighbourhood of the boroughs to ascertain the exact number of the £10 houses. The result of these inquiries varied so much from the returns to the tax office, that his doubts were confirmed. Having made these explanations, the noble lord summed up his statement, by saying—when he proposed a reform of parliament, when he proposed that the people should send to that house their real representatives, to deliberate on their wants, and to consult for their interests, to consider their grievances, and attend to their desires—when he proposed that they should in fact, as they did in theory, possess the power of holding the purse-strings of the crown, he felt convinced that he was laying the foundation of effecting the greatest changes in the comforts and well-being of the people. Laws would no longer be passed for the sole benefit of government, or for that of particular individuals; they would be no longer passed by men roused at midnight to vote for what they knew not, or against that of which they had heard not, a syllable, merely because the leader of their party told them so to vote. Laws in a reformed parliament would be cautiously proposed, and cautiously deliberated. Who would maintain that government could do nothing with respect to the misery or happiness of a people? Let those who made the assertion look at Ireland. What was the cause of the wretched state of that country, but the want of a due, parental, and kind attention on the part of government to the condition of the people? If they identified that house with the people of the three kingdoms, they might hope that the prosperity of the country was accomplished. In giving to an enlightened and powerful people the power of having their real representatives in parliament, they would furnish the means of carrying on unimpaired the constitution, without endangering the prerogatives of the crown, without injuring the authority of parliament, and in accordance with the rights, liberties, and interests of the nation. Those rights would be duly protected by the faithful representatives of a free people, and to the loyal subjects of a generous sovereign.

Sir Robert Peel rose as soon as Lord John Russell sat down, and professed at once his unaltered sentiments in opposition to the bill, but declined entering into a discussion of its merits till

the second reading, which, at his suggestion, was postponed from Thursday, the 30th of June, as originally intended, till Monday, the 4th of July.

Accordingly, on that day, after Lord John Russel had moved the order of the day, for the second reading of the reform bill; the debate was opened by Sir J. B. Walsh, who said, that the more he considered the bearings and tendencies of this measure, the more he was impressed with the danger it would produce to the British constitution, and to the whole system of social order. He should, therefore, firmly oppose the bill in all its stages, confident, that in so doing, he was contributing his aid towards averting imminent danger, and probably ruin, from his country. He concluded with moving that the bill be read that day six months.

The amendment was seconded by Mr. Clinton, who objected to the pledges which had been required from candidates during the late elections; if this system was persevered in, the house would lose all pretensions to the character of a deliberative assembly, and become the mere puppet of the popular will.

Sir James Mackintosh at great length defended the measure. With regard to the dangers apprehended from the bill, he looked upon them as visionary. The real danger arose from the schemes of those who wished to subdue the democratical spirit, for the purpose of lawless power. Such had been the case in France; and such would be the case here, if the power of the enemies of reform equalled their will. A great deal had been said concerning what was called corporation robbery. Now, this measure merely proposed to withdraw a public trust from those who had abused it, and to place it in the hands of those who would use it better. The right to send members to parliament was the right to share in the government of men; and the Revolution established the great principle, that those who held political power, held it not as a property, but as a trust. He was apprehensive that a violent opposition to the measure would sow the seeds of permanent discord between the two orders of the state, and cause bitter consequences hereafter.

The next day, the debate was resumed, when Sir John Malcolm, member for Launceston, opposed the bill, and observed, that, although returned for a close borough, he considered himself the guardian of the interests of the country at large. Were this measure to pass, it would close the avenues to that house against the monied and colonial interests, which were now only represented through the medium of the boroughs that were about to be extinguished.

Mr. Macaulay, nominee of the Marquis of Lansdowne for the borough of Calne, after enlarging on the imperfections of many

of our civil and political institutions, in which barbarism and civilization went side by side, said, it would be found that barbarism belonged to the government, and civilization to the people. Now, it was because he wished them to run concurrently, that he supported this measure of reform: the peroration of this speech was as follows. "The country, and their children for ages to come, would call this the Second Bill of Rights—the Greater Charter of the Liberties of England. He did believe, that the year 1831 was destined to exhibit to mankind the first example of a great, complicated, and deeply-rooted system of abuses removed without violence, bloodshed, and rapine—all points fully debated, all forms observed, the fruits of industry not destroyed, and the authority of the law not suspended. These were things which might well make Englishmen proud of the age and country in which they lived. These were things which might make them look with confidence to the future destinies of the human race—which might make them look forward to a long series of tranquil and happy years, during which, nothing would disturb the concord of a popular government and a loyal people;—of years, in which, if war should be inevitable, it would find the people a united nation;—of years, pre-eminently distinguished by the mitigation of public burdens, by the prosperity of industry, by the reformation of jurisprudence, and by all the victories of peace, in which, far more than in military triumphs, consisted the true prosperity of states, and the true glory of statesmen. It was with such feelings and hopes that he gave his most cordial assent to this measure of reform, which in itself he considered desirable, and which, *in the present temper of the public mind*, appeared to him indispensably necessary to the repose of the empire, and the stability of the government."

The discussion on this day was closed by Sir George Murray, one of the late ministers, who also concluded his speech with a prophecy, but of an opposite character to that of the member for Calne. He said, that this bill would have the effect of raising up another Cromwell, who was saying to himself at that moment, in the words of his prototype Oliver, "The Lord hath delivered them into my hands." The period for the appearance of this person in the field had not yet arrived. He would not be seen until the fifth act of the piece, and then he would appear endeavouring to gather together the scattered fragments of the constitution, which the measure of the noble lord would have scattered and dispersed. He would be seen again endeavouring to form a House of Commons, such, that no member should enter who was not pledged to the opinions of the usurper. The real Cromwell would also be seen endeavouring to form a

House of Lords, not like the present, endowed with the influence of property, but with the phantom of a peerage; and he would take care likewise, before they proceeded to deliberate, that the individual appointed to preside over them should administer to them proper advice.

On the resumption of the debate the following day, Sir Robert Peel went over the whole of the arguments historically and politically. He maintained that the small boroughs were not an usurpation on the rights of the people, but that they had existed at an early period, and had continued ever since. Although he did not defend the sale of these boroughs, yet it would be impossible to eradicate the evil, without depriving the country of much good, that more than counterbalanced it. There had been no reform of parliament for more than four hundred years; but so elastic were the principles which gave it force, in accommodating themselves to the spirit of the age, and the circumstances of the people, that the house had governed the country better than any other country on earth had been ever governed. He gave his opposition to the measure, because in his conscience he believed that it went to diminish, and not to increase, the security of the permanent liberties and happiness of the people of England.

Lord John Russell closed the debate with a defence of his plan; and at five o'clock in the morning, a division took place, the numbers being, for the second reading, 367; against it, 231; leaving a majority of 136 in favour of ministers.

On the 12th, Lord John Russell having moved that the house should resolve itself into a committee on the reform bill, a scene arose, unprecedented in the history of parliament. Lord Maitland rose to oppose the disfranchisement of the borough of Appleby, and moved that counsel be heard against the bill, as far as regarded the interests of that place. After a warm discussion, the motion was negatived, the numbers being—for it, 187; against it, 284. An adjournment of the debate was then moved, and disposed of in a similar manner. After five more distinct motions for the adjournment of the debate, which were also defeated, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reply to a question of Sir Charles Wetherell, the leader in this memorable con-

flict, said he was anxious that the house should have the fullest opportunity to discuss the question on the ensuing evening, if the committee was appointed *pro forma*. This was agreed to; and the house broke up at half-past seven in the morning.

The history of the reform bill, during its progress through the house, to an immeasurable extent, presents a series of short but angry and obstinate discussions. With many interruptions and amendments, the bill went through the committee, and on the 15th of September was ordered to be engrossed, there being only one dissentient voice against it. On the 19th of the same month, Lord John Russell moved the third reading of the bill, when there appeared 113 for, and 58 against it. Two days more were occupied in the debate on the question—that the bill do pass; in the course of which, Sir Charles Wetherell warned the House of Lords to take an example from France, where concessions had only been followed by destruction. The learned gentleman expressed his belief that the bill would subvert the throne, the monarch, the church, and, ultimately, the liberties of the people. Upon the division, the numbers were—ayes, 345; noes, 236: leaving a majority of 109 for the bill.

On the 22nd Lord John Russell, accompanied by Lord Althorp and a number of members, appeared at the bar of the upper house, and delivered the bill to the Lord Chancellor; after which it was read the first time *pro forma*, and ordered to be read the second time on the third of October.

On Monday, the first of August, (the anniversary of the accession of the house of Hanover) the ceremony of opening the new London bridge took place, and was honoured by the presence of King William and Queen Adelaide. The

King commanded that the procession should be by water, that the people might enjoy a large share of the passing scene; and the following arrangements were accordingly made for this brilliant spectacle:—

A triple awning, at the city end, extended over the whole width of the bridge as far as the second piers. This, and the pavilion at the end, were decorated with the colours of all nations, upwards of one hundred and fifty of which, with various banners, floated from the top of the bridge. In the grand tent was a throne, and in front of it a table, for their Majesties, and the members of the Royal Family. Beneath the canopy stood two long tables, capable of accommodating fifteen hundred persons. These were intended for the aldermen, and other members of the corporation; the centre being left open for the procession. The flooring used for entertainments at Guildhall was laid down, and a magnificent carpet spread throughout the royal tent; at each of the four corners of which, stood a man in armour. Along the whole line of procession, and on every part of the bridge laid out for the banquet, the boards were carpeted.

To facilitate the transit down the river, two parallel lines of vessels were formed into a passage of about 150 feet wide, consisting of a double, and in many cases a triple, line of barges, steamers, yachts, and craft of every description; which extended from Somerset House almost to the new bridge, when the line gradually spread on each side, to afford space for the barges to land their respective parties. The termination of the lines at these points was formed by the city barges and shallops, which were filled with company, and provided with bands of music. Several gun-brigs were brought up the river, from which, and the wharfs, salutes were fired occasionally. On the terrace of Somerset House, several tiers of seats were erected; and every place which could command a view, was thronged with spectators. The stairs leading from Somerset House, as well as the platform, were covered with dark cloth. Over that part where their Majesties were to pass, red cloth was laid. The barges containing the officers and members of the Boards of Admiralty, Customs, Excise, and Trinity House, were brought up at an earlier hour than that fixed for the arrival of the royal party. By this means, the embarkation was made in the utmost order; each barge, as it received the respective companies on board, dropped down, and took its station in the line.

The Royal Family, and their Majesties' suites, assembled at St. James's palace about two o'clock; shortly after which, the procession was formed in the gardens. The King, who appeared

in the Windsor uniform, entered the last carriage, accompanied by the Queen and the Duchesses of Cumberland and Cambridge. The other carriages were filled by the different members of the Royal Family, and persons of distinction.

The appearance of the metropolis, along the whole line of procession, was in every respect the same as on the observance of a holiday: the shops were closed, and business altogether suspended.

At three o'clock, the grand royal standard of England was hoisted over Somerset House, and announced the arrival of their Majesties, whose appearance on the steps descending to the platform, was hailed by cheers which were almost deafening.—The awnings of the state barge had been previously removed by the royal command, that the people might be indulged with a full view of the august company. The whole number of barges forming the procession, amounted to near thirty; and the space between the lines, as well as a great part of that without, seemed studded with a moving mass of glittering splendour, while flags of every colour, and of all nations, and the gay attire of the almost countless thousands on the river and its banks, formed a spectacle inexpressibly beautiful and grand.

Shortly after four o'clock, loud and general shouts from the river, announced their Majesty's approach; upon which a royal salute was fired from the brig stationed off Southwark, the bells of the churches rang out merry peals, and in a few minutes the foremost of the royal barges were discovered making their way in stately grandeur.

The stairs on the London side of the bridge had been covered with crimson cloth, and at the bottom their Majesties were received by Mr. Routh, who gave his Majesty his arm; and Mr. Jones, chairman of the New London Bridge committee, was present to receive her Majesty. On stepping ashore, the King said to these Gentlemen, "Mr. Jones and Mr. Routh, I am very glad to see you on London Bridge. It is certainly a most beautiful edifice; and the spectacle is the grandest and the most delightful, in every respect, that I ever had the pleasure to witness." While the King paused to survey the scene around him, the air was rent with acclamations, which his Majesty acknowledged by taking off his hat, and bowing repeatedly to the people. Their Majesties then ascended to the top of the stairs, without the slightest appearance of fatigue, where the sword and keys of the city were tendered to the King by the Lord Mayor. The chairman of the committee next presented his Majesty with a gold medal, having on the obverse an impression of the King's head, and, on the reverse, a view of the new Bridge, with the dates of the opening ceremony, and of the laying of the first

stone. The gentlemen of the committee were attired in uniform, consisting of a blue coat, with buttons impressed with his Majesty's portrait, and white waistcoats and trowsers.

As soon as the whole of the royal party had assembled in the pavilion, their Majesties proceeded to walk over the bridge, which was considered as the opening of the structure. His Majesty shewed himself from the parapets on either side to the multitudes below, and was much struck by the appearance which the river presented. Just as the royal procession reached the Surrey side of the bridge, Mr. Green, accompanied by Mr. Crawshay, ascended in his balloon.

Their Majesties were close to the aeronauts when they ascended, and appeared to take much interest in this part of the entertainments with which their presence was celebrated.



During the procession on the bridge, the King and Queen scattered among the people, with a liberal hand, silver medals, of which the obverse and reverse are here represented.

On returning to the pavilion, the company sat down to the banquet. At the royal table, the principal guests were thus placed. On the right of the King were seated the Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke of Sussex, the Duchess of Cambridge, the Duchess of Saxe Weimar, and Prince George of Cumberland. On the left of her Majesty sat the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, and Prince George of Cambridge.

As soon as the royal visitors had concluded their repast, the Lord Mayor rose and said, "His most gracious Majesty has condescended to permit me to propose a toast. I therefore do myself the high honour to propose that we drink his most gracious Majesty's health, with four times four."

The company rose, and after cheering him in the most enthusiastic manner, sang the national anthem of "God save the King." His Majesty bowed to all around, and appeared to be much pleased.

Alderman Sir Claudius Hunter then rose, and said, "I am honoured with the permission of his Majesty to propose a toast. I therefore beg all his good subjects here assembled, to rise, and to drink, that "Health and every blessing may attend her

Majesty the Queen.'” Which was accordingly done, with the utmost enthusiasm.

The Lord Mayor then presented a gold cup, of great beauty, to the King; who said, taking the cup, “ I cannot but refer, on this occasion, to the great work which has been accomplished by the citizens of London. The City of London has been renowned for its magnificent improvements, and we are now commemorating a most extraordinary instance of their skill and talent. I shall propose the source from whence this vast improvement sprung, ‘The Trade and Commerce of the City of London.’”

The King then drank what is called the “ loving cup,” of which every other member of the Royal Family present, most cordially partook.

His Majesty next drank the health of the Lord Mayor, and Lady Mayoress—for which his lordship, in a few words, expressive of the deepest gratitude, thanked his Majesty. The chief magistrate soon after was created a Baronet.

At about six o'clock, the King rose, and, bowing to the company, intimated his intention to bid farewell.

The procession had a more imposing appearance on its return than before, in consequence of its being joined by several of the city barges, including that of the Lord Mayor. In a few moments after their arrival at Somerset House, the Royal Party entered their carriages, and returned to the palace, escorted in the same manner as on setting out in the morning.

Exhibitions of royalty took place on the following day also, in the processions of their Majesties to the House of Peers, that the King might give his assent to the Queen's dower-bill, accompanied by his august consort, to express her thanks to the two houses of parliament, for the ample provision which they had made for her maintenance, in the event of her widowhood.

Her Majesty left the palace in state a short time before three o'clock, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, and the Princess Augusta, and escorted by a detachment of the Blues. She arrived at the House of Lords at a quarter past three o'clock, and was received by the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Norfolk, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Earl Grey, and Lord Durham, and was conducted by her cham-

berlain, Earl Howe, through the painted chamber into the robing room; to which the ladies of her suit immediately followed. In a quarter of an hour afterwards, his Majesty, who also came in state, reached the house, attended by the great officers of his suite. On their way down to the house, both their Majesties were received in the most enthusiastic manner, by the crowds assembled in the streets, and the numerous spectators in the windows which they passed.

At about half-past three, the Queen, with the Princess Augusta, the Duchess of Kent, and the ladies of her train, entered the House of Lords, preceded by her chamberlain. The Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Norfolk, and Earl Grey, ushered her Majesty to her chair of state, which was covered with crimson velvet, and placed on the right of the throne, and level with it.

As soon as her Majesty entered the house, all the peers, and a number of peeresses, who had been previously admitted, rose up, and made their obeisance.

At a quarter before four, his Majesty entered the house, preceded by Earl Grey, bearing the sword of state, and, having taken his seat on the throne, the Usher of the Black Rod was directed to summon the Commons.

The Speaker, followed by a number of members, shortly afterwards appeared at the bar, and addressed the Sovereign in these terms:—

“ May it please your Majesty,

“ We, your Majesty’s most faithful Commons, appear before you with respect, and attachment to your Majesty’s house, and beg most humbly to announce to your Majesty, that, in conformity to your Majesty’s most gracious recommendation, we have passed a bill to make provision for her most gracious Majesty, in the event of your Majesty’s decease; and with dutiful respect we now present such bill to your Majesty for acceptance.”

The Queen's dowry bill being then read by the clerk, his Majesty gave it the royal assent with the usual formalities. Her Majesty then rose, and made an obeisance three times to the two houses of parliament. Their Majesties then retired, accompanied, as before, by the different officers of their suite.

After a short adjournment, on the same day, the house resumed its sitting ; and Earl Grey presented the following message from his Majesty, which was read first by the Lord Chancellor, and afterwards by the clerk at the table of the house :—

“ His Majesty, taking into consideration, that since parliament made provision for her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, and her Highness the Princess Alexandrina Victoria of Kent, circumstances have occurred which make it necessary that a more suitable provision should be made for her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, and for the suitable education and maintenance of her Highness the Princess Alexandrina Victoria of Kent, relies on the affection and attachment of the Commons, to take the necessary measures for making such provision.”

A similar message was the same evening delivered to the House of Commons, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer ; and both were ordered to be taken into consideration on the morrow. Accordingly, Earl Grey then moved an address to his Majesty in answer to the royal message. His lordship, after some observations upon the importance of making a further provision for the support of the honour and dignity of the Princess Victoria, who was presumptive heiress to the throne, stated, that, in consequence of the election of Prince Leopold to the Belgic throne, the allowance of six thousand a year, which he had hitherto made to his sister and niece, was withdrawn.

Lord Althorp, in addition to what had been observed by Earl Grey in the other house, proposed, in the Commons, to add £10,000 per annum to the income of the

Duchess of Kent, making a total of £22,000 per annum ; £16,000 of which sum was to be expended in the maintenance and education of the future Queen of England. The resolution was agreed to.

On the 11th of this month, the island of Barbadoes suffered dreadfully by a hurricane, unexampled even in that region of whirlwind and tempest. The government house was unroofed ; two churches were destroyed, and all much injured ; the custom-house was blown down ; and the barracks buried in their ruins forty soldiers. The sugar mills were totally destroyed, and the crops rooted up by the storm. Above three thousand persons perished, and many families were ruined. Most of the other islands experienced the effects of the visitation, which extended also to Cuba, Hayti, and Jamaica ; but none suffered so severely as Barbadoes.

A calamity of the most afflicting nature befel us nearer home, on the 17th of this month, in the loss of the Rothsay Castle, steamer, off the coast of Anglesca, near to the town of Beaumaris, when 180 persons met a watery grave. This frightful destruction of life was generally attributed to the misconduct of the crew ; besides, there was no boat on board. The passengers were almost entirely from the vicinity of Manchester and Liverpool, and on their way to participate in the amusements of the regatta at Beaumaris.

CHAPTER VII.

1831.

WHEN King William IV. went, in person, to dissolve his first parliament, while placing the crown upon his own head, turning to the Lord Chancellor, he said, "This, my lord, is my coronation day;" and it was generally imagined, that the ceremonial of a public inauguration was not intended by his Majesty, nor by his ministers, till the subject was brought before the House of Lords by the Duke of Wellington.

On the 4th of July, his Grace asked Earl Grey, whether he had received any instructions on the subject of the coronation? The answer being in the negative, the Duke of Wellington wished to know, if it was not necessary that his Majesty should, within a specific period, take certain oaths connected with his coronation? The noble premier said, he was aware of the oaths to which he referred, but did not know that the law prescribed any particular time or place for their administration. As to the delay that had occurred, he should perhaps, hereafter, explain the cause of it. The coronation had hitherto been attended with very great expense; and, although anxious that the solemn compact should be ratified between the King and the people, the new sovereign was reluctant to inflict on the latter the enormous expense of the gorgeous pageantry which custom has connected with the imposing ceremony. He repeated, that he had no commands from his Majesty on the subject, but that the obligations prescribed by law, to

be entered into by the King, should be taken in some way or other. Here the conversation ended ; not long afterwards a court was appointed, to determine the pretensions of those persons who claimed a right to assist at the ceremony of the coronation. It was publicly announced, however, that those parts which had been fitted to a period when the outward senses were made panders to the all-absorbing superstition within, should be rejected ; and those only retained in which an educated, inquiring, and reasoning people, may see some relation between the form and the substance—between the nature of a kingly contract and its accompanying incidents.

Thursday the 8th of September, having been appointed for the coronation of their most gracious Majesties King William the Fourth and Queen Adelaide, the ceremony, shorn of chivalric honours, took place on that day accordingly. Every roof, window, and balcony along the line of march, from St. James's Palace to the Abbey, was filled with "a rich bevy" of the young and the gay of both sexes ; and many thousands braved the pitiless pelting of the rain rather than lose the sight of the procession. Their Majesties were loudly cheered on their appearance, as were also the different members of the Royal Family. The procession left St. James's Palace at a quarter before ten, and reached the Abbey a few minutes before eleven o'clock, when a flourish of trumpets announced the arrival of their Majesties. The doors were thrown open as early as four o'clock in the morning, but it was not until near seven that the services of the officers-at-arms were called into requisition, by the arrival of the Peers and Peeresses, whom it was their duty to marshal to their appointed places. The members of the House of Commons soon afterwards arrived, and took possession of the gallery appointed for them, above the altar. The galleries and seats around the choir gradually filled, and as the hour approached for the arrival of their Majesties, expectation was on tiptoe ; at last the procession reached the Abbey, and every eye was turned to the door by which their Majesties were to enter. As the royal procession passed along the aisle, the acclamations were universal. The King and Queen looked remarkably well, and received the homage of the spectators with great affability and dignity. On the procession reaching the choir, the Princesses, the Peers, and Peeresses were conducted to their respective seats by the officers-at-arms. Their Majesties passed

respectively on each side of the throne to their chairs of state, and after their private devotions, (kneeling on their footstools,) took their seats, supported by the great officers of state. At the conclusion of the anthem, the Recognition was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. After the Recognition, came the Offering. His Majesty's offering consisted of an altar-covering of cloth-of-gold, and an ingot of gold, of the purest metal, weighing one pound in troy-weight. Her Majesty's offering consisted also of an altar-covering of cloth-of-gold. After an appropriate prayer had been offered up by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the communion service was chanted; the Bishops of Landaff and Bristol officiating at the altar. The sermon was preached by the Bishop of London; and, during this time their Majesties were seated in their chairs of state, at the south side of the altar, opposite the pulpit. The altar presented a strikingly beautiful and gorgeous appearance, laden with service plate of massive gold, and glittering with the splendid regalia which had been deposited upon it. After the sermon, the oath was administered by the Archbishop of Canterbury; then followed the ceremonies of the anointing, the investing with the supertunica, the spurs, the sword; the offering of the sword, the investing with the mantle, the orb and ring, the sceptres, the crowning, the holy bible, the benediction, the enthronization, and the homage. As soon as the crown was placed on the King's head by the Archbishop of Canterbury, all the spectators shouted out, "God save King William!" the Peers put on their coronets; the guns were fired by signal, and the shouts of the populace were heard even within the walls of the Abbey. A telegraphic despatch was conveyed to Portsmouth, announcing the event, and a royal salute was fired there, within three minutes of the time, whilst the King remained seated upon the throne. The anointing, crowning, and enthronization of her Majesty excited very great interest among the spectators. She was conducted through the same ceremonies as his Majesty, by the ladies appointed for the purpose; and when the crown was placed upon her Majesty's head, and the Peeresses put on their coronets, every voice in the Abbey was employed in offering congratulations to the beloved consort of the King. After the enthroning of the Queen, their Majesties partook of the holy sacrament, during which the most profound silence was maintained in the Abbey. When they arose from the altar, the plaudits and the acclamations were renewed. Their Majesties, wearing their crowns, and accompanied by the Princes and Princesses, wearing their coronets, and attended in the same manner as upon entering the Abbey, then left the choir, and proceeded to the great western door, where they entered the state carriage, and the procession returned

from the Abbey to St. James's, in the same order as before. The enthusiasm of the people was extreme, and shouts and cries of acclamation were heard on all sides during the return of the procession, which closed this gorgeous ceremonial. In the evening, all the places of public amusement in London were opened gratuitously to the people; the streets were brilliantly illuminated, and a grand display of fire-works took place in Hyde Park: in this gratifying manner ended the coronation-day of King William IV. and Queen Adelaide.

The absence of the Duchess of Kent and of our present most gracious Queen, from the Coronation, occasioned much surprise, but it was solely attributable to the delicate state of the health of the young Princess, who was then residing in the salubrious climate of the Isle of Wight.

A circumstance of peculiar interest, connected with the Coronation, should here be mentioned, as exhibiting the just and constitutional views entertained by the late King, of his exalted office. At the grand dinner which followed the ceremonial, his Majesty gave as a toast, in his own frank and true English manner, "The Land we live in:" adding, that "the day had afforded him satisfaction; but that he did not at all agree with those who had considered the ceremony as indispensable, for that the compact between the Prince and the people was as binding on his mind before, as after; that no member of the House of Hanover could forget the condition on which he held the crown;" and his Majesty repeated, (striking the table with energy,) "that he was not a whit more desirous now, than before taking the oath, to watch over the liberties, and promote the welfare, of his people." The Duke of Wellington was present.

In conformity to precedent, the coronation was distinguished by grants of new honours, in the creation of three marquesses, four earls, and fifteen barons. This increase to the peerage was soon after succeeded by the addi-

tion of twenty-eight to the list of baronets of the united kingdom.

On the 22nd of the month, a grand naval spectacle was exhibited at Woolwich, in the launch of the *Thunderer*, a first-rate ship, of 84 guns, built on Sir Robert Seppings's plan of a round stern. The Queen performed the ceremony of naming the ship; after which their Majesties, and several other members of the august family, partook of an elegant entertainment on board the *Royal Sovereign*.

The coronation was celebrated with less of pageantry, but an equal share of sincerity, in various parts of the kingdom: Liverpool, Bristol, and other populous towns, were foremost in the example; but perhaps the little village of Teddington made the most spirited display, in proportion to its resources, of loyalty and affection to the new Sovereign. It is true, that this place had witnessed for many years the munificent benevolence of King William and Queen Adelaide; but it is also true, that the largest measure of gratitude is not always obtained from those who owe the greatest amount. Out of a population of 900 in Teddington village, 450 were regaled, on the coronation-day, with a plentiful dinner of roast-beef and plum-pudding, provided by a subscription of the inhabitants. In fact, King William's coronation-day was observed throughout this kingdom, and even on the continent of Europe, as one of general rejoicing.

Queen Adelaide, after the example of her royal mother-in-law, held many courts, at which the virtuous English matron introduced her beautiful offspring, fearlessly, into the fashionable world, and where the manufactures of Britain were held up to the admiration of the noble and the wealthy. England once more hailed with rapture a pattern of female worth, excellence, and conjugal affection, in the character of their illustrious Queen.

From all these festivities, over which merry England laughed, from one end of the land to the other, there was one absent; not that the occasion did not call forth grateful feelings into action,—not from any apathy to passing scenes, or indifference to the national happiness; but because, though youth and beauty were present, too delicate health prohibited an illustrious Princess, our fair rose of England, from partaking in those merry meetings in which such an age as hers would naturally have delighted. But was she unemployed? Beneath the foundation of a Temple to her God, laid during the most joyous moment of the royal festivities, will be found a brazen plate engraven with these words, “Laid by the Princess Victoria on the 14th September, 1836.”

CHAPTER VIII.

1831.

WHILE England enjoyed the happiness of a solid peace with foreign countries, and her domestic tranquillity was subjected to the agitation excited by the proposed Reform Bill only, Poland was literally deluged with blood—Germany was convulsed in some of its members—an insurrection burst out in Portugal—and Greece saw her cautious and prudent president fall by the dagger of two cowardly assassins. The feeble but spirited effort of the Poles terminated, as might have been expected from a contest so unequal, in the obliteration of Poland, as a kingdom, from the map of Europe, and its mutation into a Russian province. The troubles of Germany soon subsided; Portugal possessed ability to quell the riots that disgraced her capital; and the untimely death of the president led to the election of a king of Greece.

Since the passing of the Reform Bill, by the Commons, with a majority of 109, the proceedings of the Lords were almost confined to its consideration. Petitions in favour of the measure crowded in from every part of the kingdom; while those presented against any measure of reform were few, and from places of small population.

On the 3rd of October, Earl Grey rose to move the order of the day for the second reading of the bill to amend the representation of England and Wales; but the noble lord became so agitated, that he was compelled to resume his

seat for a few moments, before he commenced to address their lordships. He observed—

That he had been the constant advocate of parliamentary reform for nearly half a century, amidst circumstances of much difficulty, in seasons of great political convulsion and violence. He had originated motions on the subject, believing that a change was necessary, to infuse new vigour into the constitution, to unite the estates of the realm in the bonds of a sacred and happy union, and to make the House of Commons that which it was intended to be, and professed to be, and ought to be—the full, vigorous, and efficient representative of the people of England.

He went on to say that he had received the commands of his gracious Sovereign to form a cabinet; and on what principle was he to be guided in doing so? He could not have been so presumptuous as to hope to proceed successfully by pursuing a system which had led to the retirement of his predecessors. The principle on which they had acted was the cause of their removal; and he made a condition, on accepting office, that parliamentary reform should be introduced as a government measure. That condition having been generously assented to by his gracious Sovereign, and sanctioned by the universal and emphatic approval of the public—he lost no time, in conjunction with his colleagues, who were unanimous, in preparing the bill.

The nation had long turned with disgust, from beholding persons returned to the House of Commons, under the insulting title of representatives of the people, while they were, in fact, the mere nominees of peers, or wealthy persons, who had converted a public trust into their own private property, and used it or abused it for their own individual benefit. They beheld the scenes which disgraced every general election—when the most gross and scandalous corruption was practised without disguise—when the sale of seats in the House of Commons was a matter of undisputed notoriety; and, on consulting the laws and constitution of the country, they had found that such proceedings were at once illegal and inconsistent with their rights. By this bill, their lordships would still enjoy that fair and proper influence which their situation always ought to command. He therefore called on them to concur in a measure which had received the sanction of the other house, and which had been hailed with an unanimous expression of satisfaction throughout the country.

The noble earl then enforced the necessity of timely concession to the demands of the people. In conclusion, he turned to the right reverend bench, and, addressing their lordships, said, the eyes

of the country were upon them. He entreated them to "set their house in order," and prepare to meet the coming storm; to consider seriously what would be the opinion of the country, should a measure, on which the nation had fixed its hope, be defeated by their votes. As they were the ministers of peace, earnestly did he hope that the result of their votes would be such as might tend to the tranquillity and happiness of the country. As to the effect which the rejection or adoption of the measure might produce to himself, or the administration of which he formed a part, it was a matter of little moment, but by this measure they were prepared to stand or fall. The question of his continuance in office for one hour, would depend on the prospect of being able to carry through that which he considered so important to the tranquillity, to the safety and happiness, of the country. His lordship concluded with moving—"that the bill be read a second time."

LORD WHARNCLIFFE observed—

That this bill, if suffered to pass, would absorb into the control of the House of Commons, the whole power and privileges of their Lordships' House, and probably of the Crown itself. This measure, he urged, would take away the checks upon the ebullition of popular feeling, and supply nothing in their place. A House of Commons, formed upon this basis, would become too much the image of the people. They had now a delegated House of Commons, which, in consequence, had passed this measure; and yet they were told that they had nothing to do but record and register the decree. He would frankly avow, that he considered the bill as the subversion of the Monarchy, and the destruction of the House of Lords. Their lordships were not in a situation to try the experiment of a new constitution. They had already a constitution which had produced them incalculable advantages.

Their lordships were told it would soon be found that the people could do better without the House of Lords, than the House of Lords could do without the people. If the people thought that they could do without the House of Lords, they probably might be mad enough to attempt it; but he would venture to tell them, that if ever the people took such a step, they would themselves be the first to repent it. If an hereditary parliament were really of no use to the country, then the sooner it was got rid of, the better. The people owed their liberties to the House of Lords; and on no occasion had the peers of England ever been found hostile to those liberties. The country expected the House of Peers to do their duty. He therefore besought their lordships, as they valued their character—as they

valued the station which they held—either by the favour of their Sovereign, or by inheritance—to shew that the peers of England, when called upon to do their duty, would not be intimidated by menaces, or guided by interest.—The noble lord concluded by moving, as an amendment, at first, that the bill be rejected; for which his lordship substituted, that the second reading be postponed till that day six months.

An adjournment of the debate then took place, till the following day, when the DUKE OF WELLINGTON, after saying that this measure went to overturn the whole system of representation, took occasion to advert to the declaration against reform made by himself at the commencement of last session, and complained that he had been misrepresented. What he—as a minister of the crown, bound to support the institutions of the country, and to resist all projects of parliamentary reform—had said, was, that he approved of the constitution of parliament; but if he were to invent a constitution for parliament over again, he would not say that he would adopt the same as it now existed, because the invention of man could not accomplish it; but he would endeavour to frame one like it, in which property should preponderate. His grace denied that the dissolution of the late government was occasioned by this declaration. The duke then said, that this bill went to violate both the principle and practice of the constitution. The town representation would be thrown into the hands of close, self-elected committees; and by the undue enlargement of the powers of the town constituency, the balance of the agricultural representation of the counties would be destroyed. The bill would create a fierce democratic constituency, and consequently a fierce and democratic body of representatives. Were this bill carried, the church establishment of England and Ireland would be endangered. His grace added, in conclusion, that as the question of reform must be soon again brought under their consideration, he entreated of their lordships that they would not pledge themselves to any line of conduct on a future occasion.

Next day the debate was resumed, when LORD DUDLEY and WARD said, that the bill proceeded on the monstrous proposition, that we never had had a good government; that the people had always been deprived of their rights; and also that the people had been induced to support this bill, conceiving that it would extend commerce, and give more general employment to the working classes.

The MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE replied—It would be found, from a careful study of the statute-book, that, in those important periods of our history, the Reformation, the Revolution, the succession of the House of Hanover, the Union between Scotland

and England, that between England and Ireland, and the recent disfranchisement of the Irish freeholders—the laws legalizing those events were but so many cases in which the old institutions of the country were made to bend to a great, he would even say, an immense political expediency.

The MARQUIS OF LONDONDERRY, on the other side, reprobated the bill as unjust, unconstitutional, and unprincipled, and framed to render Whig supremacy perpetual.

The further discussion of the question being deferred till the 6th, the EARL OF FALMOUTH condemned the bill as having a republican tendency.—The EARL OF CARNARVON spoke to the same effect.—On the other side, LORD PLUNKET, the Irish chancellor, supported the second reading of the bill with peculiar energy. He begged their lordships to recollect that they were sitting in judgment upon the people of England, who had expressed their wishes for this bill, and this bill alone. Noble lords said that the bill would prove injurious to the people, and that, if they got it, they would proceed to overthrow the church, and destroy the established institutions of the country. This was an outrageous attack upon the people of England. They were too wise, moral, and intelligent, to adopt any such desperate course as that which had been marked out for them, and it was impossible for any government to be now carried on, without the concession of parliamentary reform.

On Friday the 7th, the debate terminated, when

LORD WYNFORD declared, that the bill now before their lordships, if carried, would destroy the church, the landed interest, and even the morals of the people.

The EARL OF ELDON followed, in a learned strain of legal argument, against the right of parliament to deprive boroughs and corporations of those privileges, to which they were as much entitled as the members of that house were to their peerages. The venerable earl added, that this was the most momentous question that had ever come before them, for it would introduce annual parliaments, the vote by ballot, and would be incompatible with the existence of that house, if not of the throne, and of every other institution of the country.

The LORD CHANCELLOR next rose, and, in a speech of four hours' duration, recapitulated the arguments that had been adduced against the measure, in the course of the preceding debates. Upon some of the positions brought forward by the opponents of the bill, his lordship animadverted with great severity, and in a style of the bitterest sarcasm. The peroration of his speech has been much admired, as a chaste specimen of eloquence: "My lords," said the Chancellor, "do not persuade yourselves, that if even the present government were to be

driven from office by the defeat of this bill, therefore you would get rid of the great bugbear of reform. No, my lords, the government which would succeed us, under such circumstances, would be one to you far less auspicious than the present. You would be compelled to grant a measure of reform, compared with which, in extent, this we now proffer you would be moderation. Remember the often-quoted old story of the sibyl and her oracles, and learn from it the value of taking time by the forelock. On the first visit, the volumes, the sacred volumes, full of lessons of wisdom and peace, were offered at a certain price: you refused the bargain. She is called back: she offers you a smaller treasure, but at a higher price; and you again refuse. She comes back, and, with a still diminished treasure, demands a higher price; and you refuse once more: and thus you go on, till you are ultimately compelled to pay at an enormous rate for what might have been cheaply bought at first. So, with respect to reform. My lords, this homely tale contains a great moral lesson. What might follow such results as I have pointed out, I will not now venture to say. This I know, that as sure as man is man, the delay of justice serves but to enhance the price at which you must purchase safety and peace. Your lordships are the highest judicial authority in the realm. It is the first office of judges never to decide in any, the most trifling cause, without hearing every thing that can be given in evidence concerning it. Will you do so now? Will you decide the great cause of a nation's hopes and fears without a hearing? Beware of your decision. Rouse not the spirit of a peace-loving, but determined, people; alienate not the affections of a great empire from your body. As your friend, as the friend of my country, as the servant of my sovereign, I counsel you to assist with all your efforts to preserve the national peace, and perpetuate the national prosperity. For all these reasons, I pray and beseech you not to reject this bill. I call upon you, by all that you hold most dear, by all that binds every one of us to our common order and our common country; unless, indeed, you are prepared to say that you will admit of no reform, that you are resolved against all change; for in that case opposition would, at least, be consistent; I beseech you, I solemnly adjure you, yea, even on bended knees, my lords," (here Lord Brougham slightly bent his knee on the woollen sack,) "I implore you not to reject this bill."

LORD LYNDEHURST declared, that the first result of this bill would be, the destruction of the Protestant church of Ireland; the next, a general confiscation of ecclesiastical property in both countries; and, finally, the rights and privileges of their lordships would be trampled in the dust, with the liberties of their country;

that 150 democratic members would be admitted into the house, and that three-fourths of the Irish members would, of necessity, be agitators.

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, in a very moderate speech, justified the vote he intended to give against the bill, which he thought would be mischievous in its tendency, and dangerous to the fabric of the constitution.

The DUKE OF SUSSEX declared, that he should vote for the second reading of the bill, because he thought it was a measure that would add to the prosperity, and secure the tranquillity, order, and peace of the empire.

The DUKE OF GLOUCESTER said he was a reformer, but the present was not a measure of reform; it was a totally new constitution, and would lead to the ruin of all the most valued institutions of the country.

EARL GREY, at an advanced hour in the morning, replied to the leading arguments urged against the bill; and, in conclusion, declared that—

“He would not abandon the King, as long as he could be of use to him. He was bound to the King by obligations of gratitude, greater, perhaps, than any subject ever owed to a sovereign. He had performed his duty to the utmost of his power; but, should he find that he could no longer be a useful servant to his Majesty, he would resign office; and when in retirement, he could at least look back with the consciousness of having done his best to serve both his King and his country.”

The house then, at a quarter past six on Saturday morning, divided, when the numbers were—for the amendment that the bill be read a second time six months hence, one hundred and ninety-nine; and against it, one hundred and fifty-eight; thus defeating ministers by a majority of forty-one.

On Monday, LORD EBRINGTON, a consistent advocate for reform, in the Commons, moved the following resolution:

“That while the house deeply laments the present fate of the bill which had been brought in for the reform of the representation, in favour of which, the opinion of the country had been unequivocally expressed, and which was matured by discussion the most anxious and the most careful, we feel ourselves called on to re-assert our firm adherence to the principles and leading provisions of that measure, and to express our unabated confidence in the perseverance of the ministry, who, in introducing and conducting this measure, have consulted the best interests of the country.”

This proposition occasioned a long and warm debate, in the course of which, LORD ALTHORP, after defending the domestic and foreign policy of ministers, said:—

“That unless he entertained the hope that a measure of reform equally strong should be carried hereafter, he would not remain in office one hour. But he would be no party to a plan that did not give a full, fair, and free representation to the people: if, as happened with regard to the Catholic question, after fighting the battle, others obtained the triumph, he should still feel happy, whether in or out of place, that he had been instrumental in furthering the progress and success of parliamentary reform.”

On the division, there appeared for Lord Ebrington's motion, 329, and 198 against it.

The two Houses, were occupied for several nights in desultory discussions on the state of public feeling with regard to the rejection of the reform bill, and the disturbances which that event had occasioned. The only other important measure, that engaged parliamentary attention, was the bankruptcy bill introduced by the Lord Chancellor, which, after much opposition, was carried, and received the royal assent.

On the 20th of October, parliament was prorogued by the King in person, who delivered the following speech:—

“MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“I AM at length enabled to put an end to a session of unexampled duration and labour, in which matters of the deepest interest have been brought under your consideration. I have felt sincere satisfaction in confirming, by my royal assent, bills for the amendment of the game laws, and for the reduction of taxes which pressed heavily on the industry of my people; and I have observed with no less pleasure the commencement of important improvements in the law of bankruptcy, from which the most beneficial effects may be expected. I continue to receive the most gratifying proofs of the friendly disposition of foreign powers. The conference assembled in London has at length terminated its difficult and laborious discussions, by an arrangement unanimously agreed upon by the plenipotentiaries of the five powers for the separation of the states of Holland and Belgium, on terms by which the interests of both, together with the future security of other countries, have been carefully provided for. A treaty founded on this arrangement has been presented to the Dutch and Belgian plenipotentiaries; and I trust

that its acceptance by their respective courts, which I anxiously expect, will avert the dangers by which the peace of Europe was threatened whilst this question remained unsettled."

" GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

" I thank you for the provision made for the future dignity and comfort of my Royal Consort, in the event of her surviving me, and for the supplies which you have granted for the service of the present year. You may be assured of my anxious care to have them administered with the strictest attention to a well-considered economy. The state of Europe has made it necessary to incur, in the various establishments of the public service, an increased expenditure, which it will be my earnest desire to reduce, whenever it can be done with safety to the interests of the country. In the mean time, I have the satisfaction of reflecting, that these demands have been provided for without any material addition to the public burdens."

" MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

" In the interval of repose which may now be afforded you, I am sure it is unnecessary for me to recommend to you the most careful attention to the preservation of tranquillity in your respective counties. The anxiety which has been so generally manifested by my people for the accomplishment of a constitutional reform in the Commons' House of Parliament, will, I trust, be regulated by a due sense of the necessity of order and moderation in their proceedings. To the consideration of this important question, the attention of parliament must necessarily again be called at the opening of the ensuing session; and you may be assured of my unaltered desire to promote its settlement, by such improvements in the representation as may be found necessary for securing to my people the full enjoyment of their rights, which, in combination with those of the other orders of the state, are essential to the support of our free constitution."

The Lord Chancellor then, by his Majesty's command, declared parliament to be prorogued till Tuesday, the 22nd of November. The King, on his return to St. James's, was accompanied by the same enthusiastic cheering as he had received on his passage to the House.

CHAPTER IX.

1831.

THE rejection of the reform bill by the Lords was attended with disturbances, some of a very outrageous character, in different parts of England. At Derby the mob liberated the prisoners from the town-gaol, and proceeded to such excesses that the military were obliged to be called in. Mr. Hader, a respectable surgeon, was felled by a blow from a stone, and two others were shot during the riot. On the same day, a riot of greater magnitude occurred at Nottingham, where the rioters fired the ancient castle at that place, (supposed to have been founded by William I.) because its proprietor, the Duke of Newcastle, exercised his privilege contrary to their wishes. Colwick Hall, the seat of John Musters, Esq., was set fire to and plundered, and Mr. Somers' factory, at Beeston, burnt down. The House of Correction was also on the point of being torn down, when the arrival of the 15th Hussars checked further mischief, by the arrest of fifteen of the most violent. In Liverpool, manifestations of disappointment were also shown by tumultuous meetings, attended by some few acts of violence.

During these disturbances, addresses, amounting to one thousand in number, were presented to the King from all parts of Great Britain and Ireland. On Wednesday, the 12th of October, the Lord Mayor and corporation of London went up to St. James's with an address to the throne. The civic procession in its route was joined by numerous bodies from eight of the principal parishes in Middlesex, adjoining the metropolis, each with its separate

address, and appropriate banners. This assemblage, by the time it reached the palace, consisted of nearly sixty thousand persons. Soon after their arrival, the parochial deputies waited on Lord Melbourne, who advised them to commit their addresses to the county members, for presentation the same day at the levee. This was done, and, in about an hour afterwards, Mr. Hume thus addressed the multitude:—

“ Gentlemen, I am happy to say, that I have presented your address to his Majesty, telling him it was passed at a meeting of nearly forty thousand persons, and that it prayed he would retain his ministers—use all constitutional means to pass the reform bill—and dismiss those persons from his court and household, who were opposed to this measure: and I have the happiness to say, that his Majesty has distinctly promised that the prayer of it shall be complied with; and he emphatically observed, that he had the highest confidence in his present ministry; and that every means in his power should be used, to insure the success of a measure so essentially necessary to the interests, happiness, and welfare of his people; and, farther, his Majesty said, that all persons about his court and person, inimical to the measure, should be removed.”

This announcement was received by the meeting with tremendous cheering. The speaker earnestly exhorted the people to preserve peace and good order; which salutary advice, however, was thrown away on the crowd, who immediately afterwards began an attack upon the house of the Marquis of Bristol. Apsley House, belonging to the Duke of Wellington, was next assailed; and the policemen, who endeavoured to drive off the mob, met with such a desperate resistance, that they were compelled to consult their own safety by a retreat into his grace's mansion. A reinforcement, however, of constables arriving, the rioters fled in all directions. Not deterred by the resistance at Apsley House, the mob proceeded to the house of the Earl of Dudley, where they were surprised by a strong body

of the police, who, having been stationed in the stables, suddenly rushed out, and cleared the field.

After the levee was over, vast numbers collected in the Park, evidently waiting for the departure of such peers as were known to be anti-reformers. Amongst the first of their victims was the Marquis of Londonderry: as soon as he was recognized, the air resounded with vociferations; and volleys of stones flew about him like hail. His lordship, upon this, drew up his horse, and put his hand into his pocket. The mob, fancying that he meant to take out his handkerchief to wipe his face, set up a tremendous shout; but on perceiving a pistol in his hand, they fell back in some disorder. The Marquis did not fire, but put spurs to his horse, and reached the Horse Guards. The mob followed, and pelted him with stones, by many of which, he suffered severely.

The Duke of Cumberland, endeavouring to cross the Park, was dragged from his horse, but rescued immediately by the police, who forced their way to his assistance, and succeeded in conveying him to the Horse Guards.

These outrages naturally became, the same evening, the subject of animadversion in the lower house of parliament; and, although they constituted a subject of very general regret, yet some members (so much were the feelings of individuals engaged in the political struggle then existing) viewed the whole scene as accidental.

Colonel TRENCH said,—“ He had witnessed a procession that day in Piccadilly, in which he had seen the coach of a member of that house. It was preceded by a standard-bearer, with a white flag, on which were inscribed the words, “The King, Commons, and People.” He followed the procession along Piccadilly, and wished to go to the Duke of Wellington’s, but he was not then able to effect that purpose. When he got near the house of the Duke of Wellington, he saw a number of respectable persons, and very well dressed, walking four and four, with ribands tied round their arms; he saw those people leave the main body

while those who followed them rushed into the gate. Those well-dressed persons made room for the individuals whom they headed, and who immediately began breaking the windows. He confessed that it gave him very great pain to find that any set of men could offer insult to an individual, whose warlike achievements had immortalized the British name, and whom he believed to be the most upright and honest man that ever ornamented private society, or dignified public station.

A remarkable instance of the inflamed state of the public mind at this period, was displayed at Perth. When the mail arrived with the news of what had occurred in the metropolis, the guard ignorantly told the assembled multitude that the Duke of Wellington, and another illustrious individual, had been shot: the people set up a shout; and some of them even applied to the civil authority, to know whether they might not be allowed to celebrate the event by a general illumination. This disgraceful fact was related in the house of peers by Lord Lynedoch, on presenting a petition from that town and its vicinity.

But of all the exalted characters, who on this occasion became the objects of public hatred, none suffered more obloquy than the bishops; of whom twenty-one voted against that measure. At Croydon, the Archbishop of Canterbury, while presiding over a meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, was savagely insulted. In Somersetshire, the bishop of the diocese was rudely attacked by an infuriated mob, while engaged in the solemn ceremony of consecrating a new church. Many other prelates were burnt in effigy; some of which scenic representations were exhibited before the respective cathedrals of the unpopular dignitaries. All these, however, were insignificant compared with the outrages perpetrated at Bristol.

Sir Charles Wetherell, the recorder of that city, having announced his intention to arrive there on Saturday, the 29th of October, to discharge his judicial functions; great

fears were entertained lest his appearance, in consequence of the active part taken by him against the reform bill, should occasion a disturbance. The magistrates upon this held a consultation, and the recorder was requested to postpone his visit till the ferment should have subsided. Ministers, however, declared that the gaol-delivery should take place as usual; and Sir Charles set out for Bath, from whence he pursued his journey with an escort of constables. Midway between the two cities, the procession was encountered by a vast concourse of people, who assailed the recorder with groans, hisses, execrations, and stones. This was continued all the way to the Guildhall, into which the judge was conducted amidst the yells and vociferations of the multitude. After opening his commission, the recorder, accompanied by the city magistrates, left the Guildhall for the Mansion-house, in Queen-square, which being at a considerable distance, exposed the gentlemen to much insult and violence from the gathering crowds. Several scuffles ensued between the mob and the special constables, in which the latter at first had some advantage with their staves; but the people making a general rush to the quay, and arming themselves with bludgeons, the contests were renewed, the multitude increased, the civil force was overcome, and some of the officers were wounded. At five o'clock the riot act was read, immediately after which every window in the Mansion-house was broken to pieces. The 14th Dragoons were then sent for, but, before their arrival, the magistrates were in great personal danger, the rioters having torn up the iron railing, and forced an entrance into the lower rooms of the Mansion-house, the contents of which were rifled.

At the approach of the military, the mob withdrew, but did not disperse; and, unfortunately, Colonel Brereton,

instead of acting as promptly as the occasion required, suffered the crowd to continue in masses about the square, and even took off his hat to them, for which he was greeted with cheers. In his conference with the magistrates, he said, the people were very good-humoured; that he had been shaking hands with them till he was tired; that their number was lessening; and that he would soon make them retire, by merely riding about the troops. This was a complete delusion, for at eight o'clock the crowd was increasing to a frightful degree, both in force and fury, insomuch that Sir Charles Wetherell found it necessary to make his escape in the disguise of a servant, and, taking a circuitous route, he made the best of his way to London.

On arriving at Newport in Gloucestershire, he accosted the host of the Red Lion, with "Terrible riots at Bristol, Mr. Landlord." "Yes," was the reply; "and it is all the fault of that stubborn man, Sir Charles Wetherell: I wish they had pushed him into the float." Sir Charles then made himself known, to the great astonishment and confusion of Mr. Giles. An explanation took place; and both the landlord and Sir Charles spent the night together, for neither went to bed. The next morning, at eleven o'clock, the recorder left for London, by way of Dursley, Tetbury, and Cirencester. He was anxious to pass through those towns, but particularly Dursley, at the time when the people were in church.

Amidst all this confusion, and while the rioters were committing every kind of outrage in the Mansion-house, Colonel Brereton remained passive, though repeatedly called upon to clear the streets. After some hours had elapsed, the dragoons began to use their sabres with a little effect; and the mob retreated to the quay, from whence many of them got on board the vessels, where the soldiers,

who were much annoyed by missiles of various kinds, could not venture. One of the officers, irritated at this treatment, rode off to his commander, for permission to fire; but this was peremptorily refused—and the colonel said, the mob would soon become quiet and go home, if they were not molested.

On Sunday morning, as soon as it was light, hundreds were assembled in Queen-square, evidently ready to resume operations; but the presence of the military seemed to overawe them for a while. It was, however, manifest, from the numerous additions making every minute to the collected force, that the pause was only prelusive of still more fearful scenes; Colonel Brereton now, unwisely, ordered the soldiers to their quarters, which lay at a considerable distance from the square, where the populace were arrayed, armed with bludgeons, sledge-hammers, and other instruments of destruction.

The retirement of the military was the signal for action on the part of the mob; who, the moment the cavalry disappeared, recommenced their outrages. A second attack was made upon the Mansion-house, from whence the mayor and sheriff escaped over the roofs of the adjoining dwellings; and the residence of the chief magistrate was quickly dismantled of all the furniture, which was either plundered or destroyed. The cellars were broken open, and vast quantities of wine and spirits carried away. People of all ages, and both sexes, might be seen greedily swallowing intoxicating liquors, in every direction, while the ground was covered by wretches in the most beastly state of drunkenness. The troops again made their appearance; but were attacked with showers of stones and brickbats, by which they suffered much, and some of the men were severely wounded. The Riot Act was now read three times, but

without effect; and Colonel Brereton still refused to fire, saying, it would only infuriate the mob to the commission of greater violence, which might endanger the total destruction of the city; and that it would be better to keep the people in temper till the next morning, when a reinforcement might be expected.

This strange decision, in all probability, occasioned the horrors that ensued. The troops being again ordered to their quarters, the mob became once more masters of the field; and proceeding to Bridewell, liberated the prisoners, burnt the building itself, along with the governor's private house.

At the same time a stronger detachment of depredators attacked the new gaol; a building erected only ten years before, at an expense of £100,000. The scene that here presented itself cannot be described. Along the New Cut, in front of the gaol, a dense mass had assembled; and on the opposite bank of the river, as far as the eye could range, the people were posted in thousands. The mob had already succeeded • in forcing an entrance into the governor's house, from which they threw every moveable article into the stream, and, as the tide was ebbing, all was carried away. The prisoners were now released; and the next step taken, was to set the prison on fire. A black flag was hoisted over the gateway, as a signal; and, immediately after, clouds of smoke were seen to issue from every part of the structure. In about an hour, the governor's house, and the chapel over it, were completely enveloped in flames, and an awful conflagration presented itself.

During these proceedings, and while the rioters were in the course of deliberation, a party of the 3rd dragoon guards, about twenty in number, arrived; but the mob, instead of being intimidated, cheered the troops, who returned the compliment by taking off their caps.

This work of destruction being completed, the rioters proceeded to the toll-houses, which were speedily consumed. Their next object was the Gloucester County Prison, outside Lawford's Gate, which was broken into, the prisoners released, and the building set in flames. While three prisons were on fire, without even the appearance of a check to the licentiousness of the populace, Colonel Brereton applied to the magistrates for authority to remove the soldiery out of the town, under the plea that their lives would be endangered by their stay! He was told, however, that he must act upon his own responsibility. He did so, and drew off the troops to Keynsham, midway between Bristol and Bath.

After the destruction of the prisons, the banditti proceeded to the Episcopal palace, on the other side of the river. The party of dragoons left to guard the Mayor's residence, was now called away to secure that of the Bishop. They had, however, no sooner quitted the square for that purpose, than the mob completed the total destruction of the Mansion-house.

On the arrival of the troops at the Bishop's palace, they found all quiet; but the flames which arose from the square too plainly indicated that they had gone to the protection of one place, at the expense of the destruction of the other. They returned again to the palace, but during their transit both places were destroyed. On their arrival at the square, the Mansion-house was in a blaze; the incendiaries appeared in different parts of the building, and some of them were buried in its ruins. By this time the fire raged throughout the palace, which in a short period was reduced to ashes; but, fortunately, the Cathedral, adjoining, escaped.

The Custom-house next became a prey to the devouring

flames, and the activity of the wretches in accomplishing its destruction, proved fatal to numbers who were ranging the different offices; many having cut off their own retreat by their wicked industry, were seen to approach the windows, and drop into the flames. The Excise Office followed the fate of the Custom-house; besides which, there were burning at the same time forty-two private dwellings and warehouses, many of which last were filled with wines, brandy, and rum, the ignition of which gave a tremendous effect to the horrid spectacle.

Morning dawned on such a scene as had never before been witnessed at Bristol, and which could not have been exceeded by what was exhibited during the memorable riots of London in the year 1780. The flames, indeed, were subsiding, but the appearance of Queen Square was appalling in the extreme. Numerous buildings were reduced to a heap of smoking ruins, and others were every moment falling, while, all around, lay scattered many of the rioters in a senseless state of intoxication. The soldiers, who had been sent out of the city, were now remanded; the magistrates called out the *posse comitatus*; and in the course of the day, parties of military, horse, foot, and artillery, came in from different places; but tranquillity had partially returned. The total number of killed and wounded fell little short of one hundred; but, as many of the latter, after suffering by the sabres and muskets of the military, were able to get away undiscovered to their homes, no accurate return could be obtained. About two hundred were made prisoners during the outrages, and several were taken afterwards with plundered property in their possession. Nearly two months, however, elapsed before a special commission was appointed, to bring the offenders to justice. On the 2d of January, the Duke of Beaufort, Lord Chief Justice

Tindal, Sir W. E. Taunton, and Sir J. B. Bousanquet, opened the commission, which lasted till the seventh; when eighty-one criminals were convicted, five of whom were left for execution, but four only suffered the extremity of the law. Meanwhile a court of military inquiry was instituted on the conduct of the officers commanding at Bristol, during these melancholy transactions. The result of this investigation, which was strictly private, was the appointment of a court-martial on Colonel Brereton; but, after sitting four days, the proceedings were stopped by the death of the prisoner, who, overpowered by his feelings, and the weight of evidence adduced, shot himself through the heart, on his return home. Another court-martial followed upon Captain Warrington, senior officer in command of the third dragoon guards, for neglect in employing his force to suppress the riots, and to save the public buildings at Bristol. The defence of Captain Warrington principally rested on the want of directions from Colonel Brereton, and of assistance from the magistrates. General D'Albiac, the crown prosecutor, in his reply, laid down, on the authority of Lord Chief Justice Tindal, as a fundamental principle of the common law—that the military subjects are bound to prevent outrage, when no opportunity is offered of obtaining a requisition from proper authority.

In the course of these trials, it appeared that the Bristol magistrates were highly culpable. The mayor of the city purposely concealed himself, when his presence was most needed; and the aldermen pleaded, in excuse for not accompanying the soldiers, their inability to ride on horseback. Thus, between the timidity of the civil, and the hesitation of the military authorities, this great commercial city was for nearly three days under the uncontrolled domination of a lawless band of plunderers and incendiaries.

While these tragic scenes were passing at Bristol, disturbances broke out at Bath, Coventry, and Worcester ; but these being vigorously opposed by the municipal and military forces, were speedily put down, without bloodshed, or any material destruction of property

The Nottingham offenders were next brought to trial, and the extreme sentence of the law was pronounced upon five ; against four others judgment of death was recorded. Of those condemned, however, three only suffered, all the rest were transported for life. Mrs. Musters, who had been obliged to fly, with her child, from the infuriated rabble, and to take shelter for the night in a stable, died soon afterwards, of the effects of the fright and the cold.

In consequence of these disgraceful transactions, his Majesty in council issued a proclamation reciting the illegal excesses committed at Bristol, Derby, Nottingham, and many other places, and announcing the royal determination to preserve the public peace, and protect the rights and liberties of Englishmen.

The alarm of the executive government continued to increase daily, as the winter advanced, and apprehensions were, groundlessly, formed, that the peace of the capital would be endangered, by the associations now establishing, similar to the national guard of Paris. On the 10th of November, one of these assembled at the Crown and Anchor tavern, Sir F. Burdett in the chair, and assumed the title of the Grand Central National-Political-Union. The first resolution appointed a council of seventy-two, one half of the working classes, and the other half of the upper and middle orders of the community, for the purpose of " supporting the reform bill, as part payment of the people's rights."

The walls in and about the metropolis also were placarded with bills, announcing a general meeting of the

various branch unions of the working classes, to be held in the fields opposite White-Conduit House, Islington, on Monday, the 7th of November, to petition for annual parliaments, universal suffrage, and vote by ballot. The persons summoned were advised to arm themselves with clubs, in order to keep the police civil! Government, forthwith, sent circulars to the different parishes, inviting the respectable inhabitants to come forward, as special constables, to suppress any attempts that might be made to violate the public peace. The leaders of the union had an interview with the home secretary, who designated the declaration that had been circulated, as seditious, and the intended meeting treasonable: in consequence of which the assembly was postponed.

The most formidable of these political unions were those of Birmingham and Manchester. The former, which was said to enrol one hundred and fifty thousand members, went so far as to form an organized system of government; in the appointment of tithingmen of tens, constables of one hundred, marshalmen of one thousand, and aldermen of districts. This dangerous scheme, however, the council of the association found it necessary to give up. The Manchester union, in defiance of the laws, proceeded at length to convene meetings in the open air, on Sundays, during divine service. At one of these conventions, the most inflammatory harangues were uttered; and an address to the King was passed, demanding the release of all the prisoners that were under sentence of death at Bristol and Nottingham. The rapid increase of these primary unions, and the extreme boldness of their proceedings, in presuming to meddle with the legislative authorities, made it necessary that some steps should be taken, to lay them under restraint. Accordingly, the Gazette of the 22d of November contained a

proclamation against organized societies, which concluded by declaring them to be "unconstitutional and illegal," and earnestly warning and enjoining all loyal subjects to abstain from entering into such unauthorized combinations, whereby they may draw upon themselves the penalties attending a violation of the laws, and the peace and security of our dominions may be endangered.

After a short separation of five weeks only, parliament was suddenly recalled on the 6th of December; not, as was generally expected, for the purpose of taking into immediate consideration the circumstances of the country, but to receive and expedite the resuscitated reform bill. On that day his Majesty went in state to the House of Peers, and, being seated on the throne, delivered a speech to the following effect:—

That he felt it his duty to direct the attention of both houses to the bill for the Reform in Parliament. He deeply lamented the distress which prevailed in different parts of his dominions; deplored the further spread of the cholera morbus, and suggested an inquiry into the occasion of resistance to tithes in Ireland. His Majesty alluded to the difficulty that existed as to the renewal of diplomatic relations with Portugal, announced the final separation of Belgium from Holland, and the conclusion of a convention with the King of the French for the effectual suppression of the African slave-trade. The speech was concluded by a brief notice of the riots at Bristol, and the necessity for some improvement in the municipal police.

On the 12th of the same month, no other business having intervened, Lord John Russell entered into an elucidation of the revived bill; for leave to bring in which, he now applied. It would be superfluous here to follow the noble mover in the details of the plan, which differed little from the leading features of the discarded one, and in no respect from its principles. The former bill embraced three capital points—the disfranchisement of decayed or nomination boroughs; the enfranchisement of large towns

or populous districts; and the extension of suffrage in towns, cities, and counties.

The important parts of all these provisions were preserved in the new bill. There were, however, some slight variations. In the rejected bill, all the parliamentary boroughs which had not a population of two thousand, were to have been disfranchised; and those which had more than two thousand, but below four thousand, were to have only one member. Yet population, his lordship said, was not by this means made the basis of representation; but it was conceived that places so unimportant as to have fewer than two thousand or four thousand inhabitants, were not entitled to have the right of sending two members to parliament, while large towns, of one hundred thousand, were not represented at all. Nearly one hundred boroughs would be either wholly or partially disfranchised, and a full representation provided for large towns, districts, and counties. By the new bill, the process of disfranchisement differed from what had before been proposed. It was now intended that the numbers of houses, and the amount of assessed taxes, should be taken, of one hundred of the least considerable boroughs. Fifty-six of these were to be totally disfranchised, and to the remaining forty-four only one member each would have been given, had the government resolved, conformable to the resolution of the preceding session, to retain the full number of members of which the house was now composed. By the last bill, twenty-three seats remained, after extending the county representation, giving members to large towns, and increasing the members from Scotland and Ireland. In disposing of these twenty-three vacancies, it was proposed to give an additional member to certain places which by the former bill were to have had only one each. The reason assigned

for preferring the number of houses, and the amount of assessment, to the returns of population, in determining the extent of disfranchisement, was stated to be, that this mode would be less liable to mistake or exaggeration.

With regard to the qualification, some changes were introduced into the new bill. During the former discussions, many difficulties were started respecting the question of a ten-pound rent, whether the house should be valued, or taken according to the rate in the parish books. By the new bill, these difficulties were thus provided against: A return to be made of all the houses of that annual value, and the occupant, or owner, to have a vote, if rated to the poor, let the amount be what it might. If not rated at all, he might acquire the right of voting, by demanding to be put on the parish books, for his contribution to the poor. Beside these changes from the former plan, there was an important one in regard to the constituency of boroughs. According to the rejected bill, the privilege of freemen to vote in boroughs was not suffered to descend to their children. By the new measure, the rights of the sons of freemen were preserved, as of old. Another change determined, that freeholders in cities or boroughs that are counties in themselves, should retain their elective franchise, either for the city, borough, or county.

An objection having been raised against the census of 1821, as imperfect, and against that of 1831, as made up for electioneering purposes, it was now determined that the number of houses would be a better criterion than the number of inhabitants.

On the 16th, the motion for the second reading of the bill was opposed by LORD PORCHESTER, who said, that the extension of the franchise to so many commercial towns, and the increased representation given to London and the neighbouring parishes, were as objectionable in the present as in the last bill. From

the preponderance given to the town representation over that of the counties, the landed interest would suffer severely; and consequently the bill, though improved in some of the details, would ultimately prove more democratical than its predecessor.

SIR EDWARD SUGDEN seconded the motion. On that part of the bill regulating the right of voting in boroughs and cities, he observed, that there must be an annual valuation of every house; for a house that was worth £10 one year might not be worth near so much the next. This part of the bill, besides, would do that which ought always to be guarded against—that of holding out temptations to perjury. If this clause should pass, it would form a most dangerous innovation: the greatest fraud would also be easily perpetrated under it: and landlords, by raising their wages and rents to persons who took houses from them, would be able to create a quantity of fictitious votes. The true title of the present plan, he considered, was, “A bill to encourage the growth of ten-pound houses in England.”

LORD ALTHORP concluded the debate of this night. It was idle, his lordship said, to assert that this bill was the first link in the chain of disturbance. Clamour had existed long ago, and had constantly increased, until it was raised to an irrepressible pitch, by the declaration of the late administration. If he thought that the bill would diminish the influence of the landed interest, he should feel himself guilty of a great dereliction of duty, in recommending it to the house. But he was persuaded that the landed interest would still enjoy a full and due proportion of weight in the election of members to serve in parliament.

An adjournment then took place till the following evening, when

SIR ROBERT INGLIS stated, as an objection to the bill, that it would place funded property, which had been vested by the authority of parliament, in a perilous situation. This property now amounted to eight hundred millions; but if representatives were returned under the provisions of the ministerial measure, it would be either expunged entirely, or sweepingly reduced.

After several speeches on both sides, but with little novelty of argument in any, Lord John Russell, at considerable length, vindicated the principles of the bill.

SIR CHARLES WETHERELL attacked ministers and their measure of reform in a mingled strain of sarcasm and argument: he contended that the present measure not only created a new right of suffrage, but destroyed the old, for it got rid of the scot and lot right of voting, by which two-thirds of the male population of England were disfranchised.

Mr. STANLEY, the secretary for Ireland, said, that ministers had in no respect deviated from the leading principle and features of the original measure. It was an irrefutable argument, that, as society advances, and the march of intelligence proceeds, government must conform themselves to the times in which they live. God forbid that we should not have sufficient prudence to go forward, not with the mob, but with the country ; to remedy evils and complaints, which, as they are not to be suppressed, and cannot be concealed, must finally prevail.

SIR ROBERT PEEL concluded the debate, in a speech of considerable length and ability, the principal part of which was a vindication of himself, and the administration to which he had belonged, from the charge of inconsistency ; he added—"I oppose the bill, because I repel all participation in the responsibility of such a measure ; and I vote against the second reading, not that I expect to be successful in my opposition, but because I will enter my solemn protest against one of the greatest and most precipitate changes ever made in a constitution, the best that ever existed in the annals of history. I expected that the present ministers would bring forward some plan of reform ; but I was not prepared for so extravagant a measure as this, and that within six weeks after taking office, while the country was agitated by the events of the French revolution. I will continue my opposition to the last, believing, as I do, that this is the first step to a series of changes, which will affect the property, and alter the constitution, of the country ; prove fatal to the House of Lords ; and bring on a train of unknown, but direful consequences. We may make the democratic principle supreme ; we may establish a republic, full of energy, and not wanting in talent ; but, in my conscience, I believe fatal to our mixed form of government, and ultimately destructive of all those usages and practices which have long preserved to us a large share of peace and prosperity, and which have made and preserved this the proudest kingdom in the world."

A division took place at half-past one on *Sunday* morning, when there appeared for the second reading of the bill 324, and against it 162 ; majority for the bill 162. The house then adjourned till Tuesday the 17th of January, 1832.

Thus stood this great political question, in its third stage of gestation, and with a certain prospect of passing through the lower house of parliament ; while a variety of opinions

was formed, respecting its chance of success in the Lords. In this state of doubtful concern, ministers thought of an immediate increase to the peerage, in order to force the bill through that house. The only instance upon record of such a stretch of power, happened in the reign of the last of the Stuarts, and under the Tory administration of Harley, Earl of Oxford, who very narrowly escaped judgment for it, when the Whigs came into authority. King William possessed too distinct a knowledge of the value and use of the royal prerogative, to misapply it in this instance, and firmly resisted the application.

From the discussions in the Commons on the clauses of the reform bill, occasional moments were snatched for other purposes; and, amongst the measures proposed, was one for the settlement of tithes in Ireland. It is a subject of difficulty, delicacy, and doubt, not likely to be arranged without well-matured plans on the part of the legislature; and at that period the acts of violence perpetrated, by those who resisted the payment of tithes, were of the most outrageous nature. While the very existence of tithes was threatened, the commissioners for the building of churches proceeded with becoming zeal in their useful and moral duty. Their last report stated that 168 churches had been raised since the commencement^{*} of their labours—27 were in a state of forwardness—and plans were then before them for the erection of 16 more. Additional accommodation was thus afforded to upwards of 200,000 persons, including 130,000 free seats for the use of the poor. In Scotland, also, 43 new churches were built, either wholly or in part, at the expense of the commission for that part of the united kingdom, whereby accommodation was obtained for 50,000 persons, who were previously without any place of worship.

The great family of the British islands did not at this

period enjoy that tranquillity which belongs to a well-ordered house, and for the possession of which other countries gave them credit. The revenue of the year ending on the 5th of January, 1832, exhibited a falling off amounting to £3,984,175 : the deficiency occurring chiefly in the excise department. The shipping and agricultural interests were much depressed—foreign manufactures were admitted into the country, on terms that afforded little protection to our own countrymen—and the state of Ireland it was painful to reflect on.

This recapitulation includes grievances attributable to human conduct, or misconduct possibly, not unfrequently, but it pleased Providence to apply a still more awful scourge to the people, in the continuance of the devastating ravages of cholera in many parts of the united kingdom. To check the progress of this insidious and merciless enemy, a board of health was formed—scientific inquiry made into the precise character of the disease—and the heads of the church were directed to draw up a form of prayer, to be read in churches, to the Almighty dispenser of all things, to release us from the punishments of disease and painful death.

In this gloomy state of our domestic atmosphere, a species of murder was committed, new in the annals of crime, and, for the honour of human nature, confined to a few, and those the most reckless and abandoned miscreants that could be found in Britain. Burke and Hare, two profligate vagabonds, undertook the disgusting trade of resurrectionists, and, to obtain a sufficient supply of subjects for the anatomical schools in Edinburgh, where they dwelt, had recourse to murder. This crime they consummated by inveigling their victims to their pandemonium, where, providing against the probability of resistance by making them drink

to excess, they stopped respiration by falling on their prey, and lying on the body until life was extinct. They were provided also with a pitch-plaster to stop the mouth. Burke paid the mild penalty for such crimes, which the laws of England inflict; but his fate did not deter his imitators from the horrifying trade. In London the crime of Burking was found to be committed more frequently than even the magistracy could have suspected; and soon after, Bishop and Williams suffered death at the Old Bailey, for burking an Italian boy, who had supported himself by exhibiting a live tortoise in the streets; and, another monster was hanged, for the murder, under circumstances of similar atrocity, of Elizabeth Walsh, who had attained the age of 84 years. These distressing deaths excited the most painful apprehensions amongst the poorer classes, whose fears produced new tales of terror every day. Parliament felt the necessity of some legislative enactment, if it were only to allay the apprehensions of the public, and, in the course of the year Mr. Warburton's anatomy regulation bill was brought forward.

The provisions and details of the revived reform bill occupied the strict attention of the Commons' House of parliament during the months of January and February, and on the 23rd day of March, this protracted debate was brought to a conclusion, by a majority of 116 in favour of ministers, being an increase of 7 on the majority obtained for the third reading of the reform bill, on the 21st of September, 1831. Mr. Stanley stated, that means would be taken to prevent a collision between the two houses of parliament. This declaration was calculated to calm the anxiety of reformers outside the house, but possessed no further value.

On the 26th of January, Mr. Herries astonished the house, by moving a vote of censure upon his Majesty's ministers, for having appropriated public money without the

consent of parliament. He alluded to the treaty of 1814, by which England was bound, in conjunction with Holland, to pay the Russian-Dutch loan in equal shares, for a political purpose, which payment was to cease in the event of a separation taking place between Holland and Belgium. Notwithstanding which, ministers had continued to make payments on their own responsibility. We had inconsiderately pledged the national honour for the payment of £1,000,000, to Sweden, on account of Holland; £2,000,000 more, to assist the King of the Netherlands in strengthening the defences of his kingdom; and to bear equally with Holland, *during her union with Belgium*, a further charge of £3,000,000. Out of this last conditional engagement of 1814, grew the treaty of Holland and England with Russia, in May 1815.—Our ministers thought proper to perform our part of the covenant, while the Dutch acted otherwise, and, by Mr. Herries' motion, government were within *twenty-four* votes of having the censure of parliament inflicted on them. The report of the committee of supply, which was brought up on the 6th of February, was opposed warmly by Mr. Goulburn, who compelled the Chancellor of the Exchequer to admit, that he had been misled in his calculations to the amount of £350,000. The report, however, was eventually received.

The lords were not unemployed, nor without sympathy, in ameliorating the domestic affliction of the nation. They had originated, and pressed forward actively, resolutions and suggestions for the relief of the Irish clergy, to whom £84,000, arrear of tithes, were due—recommended an alteration in the tithe system—brought in “the pluralities of benefices bill,” and passed the cholera precaution bill. With these benevolent measures they were occupied up to the 26th of March, 1832, when Earl Grey moved, that the reform bill, which had been received from the other house,

should be then read a first time, which was done without a division, and ordered to be read a second time on Thursday the 5th of April.

It was not, however, until the 9th day of April, 1832, that Earl Grey proposed, to the upper house, the serious consideration of this important and obstinately contested measure. The debate, acrimonious on both sides, and continued to the 14th day of the month, contained no additional arguments—presented no new features. The noble mover declared, that if he saw danger to any part of the measure, which in his opinion was an important part, he would not say whether he would have recourse to the creation of additional peers or not.—The Lord Chancellor, in a speech overflowing with sarcasm, (a quality which nature appears to have bestowed upon orators more frequently than its opposite,) maintained, that the excitation then in favour of reform was *solely* attributable to the declaration of the Duke of Wellington, “that no reform was necessary.” This argument might probably have given pain, at the moment, to the noble duke, but had no real or rational foundation. The duke’s declaration never did produce a greater effect than that of adding a little fuel to the flame. If it were the sole cause, the origin of reform would have been attributable to a vindictive or retaliative feeling, rather than to any real necessity for such a measure. At a quarter past seven o’clock, on the morning of the 14th, the second reading of the bill was carried, in the Lords, by a majority of 9. There being for the measure, 184 ; against it, 175.

The house having proceeded to the separate consideration of the clauses in the bill, ministers were beaten by a majority of 35, on a motion of Lord Lyndhurst’s for postponing the disfranchisement clauses. This interruption led to the tendering of their resignations by Earl Grey and his

colleagues, and to the opening of a communication between his Majesty and the Duke of Wellington, through Lord Lyndhurst. In the conferences that took place, the duke displayed his accustomed magnanimity, offering his best councils for the benefit of the nation; at the same time acknowledging his own inability to carry the measure of reform to such a conclusion, as would be likely to prove final. This declaration led to the reinstatement of Earl Grey in office, with power to conduct the reform bill to a successful issue. Henceforth opposition became vain—the King united with the Commons, thereby extinguishing the influence of the Lords:—the principal opposition lords, after that, absented themselves, and on the 4th of June the reform bill passed the upper house; the numbers for the measure being 106; against it, 22. For this termination the country is indebted to the ability, energy, and perseverance of Earl Grey, solely and individually. No other member of either house possessed, at that time, the power to carry it. The royal assent was given, by commission, to the English reform bill, on the 7th day of the same month in which it passed their lordships' house. A species of languor, consequent upon the labours of the important measure just passed, fell upon the House of Lords, during the remainder of the month, and, until the close of the session, no other measures, of consequence, were brought forward or passed through.

During the oscillation that took place amongst the great bodies of the state, public feeling was at its climax of excitation, and the money-market continued to be disturbed by contrary currents, emanating from the reports of the idle or the interested. Meetings in favour of reform were held in many places—petitions and addresses began to be composed, engrossed, and signed; and the chief city officers, in the name

of their brethren, prayed that the supplies might be stopped. A petition arrived from Manchester, signed by 25,000 persons, containing a similar request. On the motion of Lord Ebrington, an address was presented to his Majesty, imploring him to call such men only, to his councils, as were likely to carry the bill before the country. All those unusual proceedings, all the fears, jealousies, and distrusts, that had arisen in the bosoms of the reformers, were dissipated by the restoration of Earl Grey to that position of efficiency, and of power, which enabled him to consummate the object of his earliest ambition as a statesman and legislator—a reform of the Commons' House of Parliament. The Scotch and Irish reform bills found a less interrupted transit through both houses—the principle of reform having been decided upon, as well as the actual number of representatives to be returned by each kingdom. The elective franchise in Ireland, however, underwent a total change, where forty-shilling freeholders were abolished, and the franchise extended to £10 freeholders of 21 years.

In the spring of the year 1832 the number of emigrants, from the British islands, to America and to Austral-Asia, exceeded considerably the average of preceding years—the greater share embarked at the port of London. To what this movement is attributable may be a matter of difficulty to ascertain:—political excitement in England; famine, and an always irritable temperament, in Ireland; to which the wasting ravages of the cholera morbus may be added; and, a spirit of enterprise amongst the Scotch—are probably to be enumerated amongst the causes that led to this abandonment of home.

Their Majesties King William and his exemplary Consort, in the midst of the troubled waters of the political ocean, held on the even tenor of their way. On Easter Monday,

in the memorable year of reform, they were seen at the opening of Staines' new bridge, the last of five that had been constructed there in the short space of 40 years. The illustrious visitors were received, on the bridge, beneath triumphal arches, erected for the occasion, and the interest of their presence was much heightened by the recollection, that on the 14th of September, 1829, the first stone of the beautiful scientific structure had been laid by his Majesty, then in the less exalted rank of Duke of Clarence. Another duty not less grateful to the kind and benevolent disposition of the late King, was that of attending the celebration of the Eton Montem, a triennial fete, which occurred also in the same year and about the same period. On this occasion the captain received the liberal collection of £1,200. Their Majesties expressed much gratification at hearing, that the fortunate youth was the son of the publisher to the school, a person who had been long and honourably associated with the college. The next appearance of their Majesties at a place of public amusement was attended by serious personal injury to the King. On the arrival of the Royal Party on Ascot Heath, his Majesty appeared in excellent health and spirits, but the Queen was observed to be labouring under a depression of both. The assemblage of nobility was less splendid than on most similar occasions for twenty years before, and the greetings of the spectators were much less warm, than those with which their Majesties had lately been welcomed. At the termination of the first race, his Majesty, who was looking from the window of his stand, was observed to start, and heard to exclaim, "O God, I am hit," but, on inquiry, it was found that he had been struck, on the forehead, by a stone, not a bullet, thrown by a miscreant named Denis Collins. The wretch was instantly seized, by Lord Uxbridge, and found

to have been provided with a second and much larger missile, which he purposed discharging, in revenge, as he stated, for the unsatisfactory reply to his petition addressed to the King. Collins had been a sailor, lost a leg in battle, and was twice dismissed from Greenwich Hospital for misconduct. Being brought to trial, he was found guilty of high treason, (notwithstanding the plea of insanity set up in his defence,) but the King mitigated the fatal sentence into imprisonment for life.

Our foreign relations, or the events of other countries, can scarcely be admitted legitimately into the biography of our late Monarch, however they may belong to a full history of our country; but, the circumstances of the neighbouring kingdom of the French were, at this moment, so remarkable and unsettled, and the recently-erected government exposed to such peril, that they justify some brief notice here. The Carlists, or supporters of Henry V. under the conduct of the Duchess of Berri, disturbed the repose of the western provinces, while Paris itself was in a state of civil war, and threatened with all the horrors of republican anarchy and bloodshed. On the 5th day of June, the remains of General Lamarque were to be borne towards the place of final deposition, in the south of France, according to arrangements previously made by the government; but the people determined, after having first carried the body to the Pantheon, to bear it afterwards as far as the barrier d'Enfer. This point, so very similar to that contested for by the Londoners, on the memorable funeral procession of the unfortunate Queen Caroline, was disputed between the military and the people, with such determination, that 55 citizens lost their lives, and 240 were badly wounded, before tranquillity could be restored. Such a bold and bloody insurrection called for violent measures on the

part of the government, who instantly declared Paris in a state of siege, dissolved the Polytechnic school, disarmed part of the National Guard, seized the opposition newspapers, and issued a military commission for the trial of the insurgents—infringements upon civil liberty, which the exigencies of the case alone could palliate. The Duchess of Berri, however, still longer continued her revolutionary steps, styled herself Regent of France, and everywhere as she passed, proclaimed Henry V.

The English reform bill being finally disposed of, various subjects, neglected during the progress of that all-absorbing measure, were brought before the country,—Irish tithes, Irish education, the state of Ireland, the Irish and Scotch reform bill, Russian-Dutch loan, anatomy bill, and some others of less importance. It is unnecessary to repeat here the peculiarities of the reform bills for Ireland and Scotland, the measure itself having been before fully detailed: the circumstances of the Russian-Dutch loan have also been distinctly stated; but, on the third reading of the anatomy bill, Earl Grey moved, that the body of a person convicted of murder should be liable, at the discretion of the judge, to be hung in chains, or buried within the precincts of the prison:” with this amendment, the bill became the law of the land.

On the 16th of August, 1832, King William IV., in person, prorogued both houses of parliament, in a brief but sufficiently pointed address. He commenced by stating, that he believed he had restored general confidence in the legislature, and given additional security to the institutions of the country. He deplored the continuance of disturbances in Ireland, but congratulated the country upon anticipated blessings arising from the new system of education, in that part of the kingdom. After briefly adverting

to the unsettled state of the Dutch and Belgian differences, as well as the disturbed state of Portugal, he dismissed the members to their respective countries.

The domestic peace and exemplary retirement of the illustrious pair, that dwelt in the castellated palace of Great Britain, was for awhile broken up and embittered by the premature death of the Princess Louise of Saxe Weimar. This interesting young person, who was snatched from the affectionate care of her afflicted mother, and not less tender embraces of her royal aunt, the Queen Consort of England, was eldest daughter of Duke Bernard of Saxe Weimar, by Ida, sister to the Duke of Saxe Meiningen. Her relatives endeavoured to check incipient decay by change of climate, and removed her to the hospitable halls of Windsor, where she expired at the early age of fifteen years. The remains of the Princess were deposited in St. George's Chapel, and attended to their gloomy resting-place by the King in person, habited in a purple robe; and, on the Sunday following he accompanied the Queen, to visit and inspect the vault, where the mouldering form of the youthful Princess was entombed. The conduct of her Majesty, on this melancholy domestic affliction, obtained very general sympathy, and the share his Majesty took in the ceremony, earned for him the applause of the feeling and gentle-hearted.

Within the same short month, in which the youthful relative of our royal family, was laid in the mausoleum of our kings, the grave closed over another early victim, whose name thousands were once compelled to welcome with ten thousand shouts. At the palace of Schoenbrunn, near Vienna, and at the age of twenty-one years, expired Napoleon-Francis-Charles-Joseph, Duke of Reichstadt, son of Napoleon, once Emperor of the French. He was born at Paris, on the 20th of March, 1811, and was the only off-

spring of the ill-omened alliance of Napoleon with the Archduchess Maria Louisa of Austria. Upon the fall of the French imperial power, he was degraded from his style of King of Rome, to that of Duke of Reichstadt, with a large castle and estate in Bohemia, and continued, during his short earthly career, under the jealous guardianship of the Emperor of Austria. His remains were treated with all the forms extended to the archdukes of that imperial house. Fewer or more striking instances could be presented of the vanity of earthly wishes. To leave a successor, whom he could call his own, Napoleon sacrificed himself: the sea-girt rock of St. Helena, and the early grave of Reichstadt, are the results of that fatal error.

Scenes of death are so often followed by those, in which earthly aggrandisement constitutes the chiefest portion, that it will appear nothing contrasted or inconsistent, to relate the marriage of one prince, immediately after the burial of another. On the 9th of August, Leopold I., King of the Belgians, and once honoured with the hand, and affections, of the Princess Charlotte of England, led to the hymeneal altar the Princess Louise, daughter of Louis Philippe, King of the French. The marriage was solemnized, with much ceremony, at Compeigne, in presence of the king her father, and all the royal family, and, after passing the honey-moon at Pierrefonde, the happy pair proceeded to their Belgian palace. The issue of this high alliance is to be instructed in the Roman Catholic tenets solely.

On the 21st of September, in the year 1832, and at the age of sixty-one years, the greatest genius and most popular writer of his nation and age, Sir Walter Scott, expired at his seat of Abbotsford, in the county of Roxburgh; a man not more admired, or admirable, for the inventive powers of his mind, than beloved and respected for the kindness

of his disposition, and the manly simplicity of his character. Although his death had long been expected, no loss could have been more deeply felt over the whole republic of letters, and none could have excited more general or unmixed regret. His name and works are now not merely British, but European; wherever there is a reading public, a literature—or a printing-press in any part of the world, Sir Walter Scott is regarded as a familiar household word—and gratefully admitted as a contributor to intellectual enjoyment.

On the ninth of November, the Duchess of Kent, and her illustrious daughter, arrived at Kensington Palace, from a tour through some of the most important and interesting places and scenes in England and Wales. The future Queen and her august mother, were everywhere received with the most flattering indications of public loyalty, and affection, during their progress.

After proceeding through the romantic country of North Wales, where the royal party were received with enthusiasm, and all the honours due to their exalted rank, they visited the ancient city of Chester. Here a gratifying opportunity was afforded to the Princess, of exercising that patronage, and extending that encouragement to every useful improvement, which she seemed to have inherited from her wise and benevolent mother. This was the opening of Chester-Dee Bridge, the largest stone arch in the kingdom, being 200 feet span, designed originally by Harrison, the architect of Chester gaol. The Princess named this noble structure, “Grosvenor Bridge,” in compliment to the family of Eaton Hall. After this interesting and imposing ceremony, the royal cortege proceeded to the venerable cathedral, in the beautiful chapter-room of which the Duchess of Kent received the address of the Bishop

and Clergy, to which she was pleased to make the following reply:—"I cannot better allude to your good feeling towards the Princess, than by joining fervently in the wish, that she may set an example in her conduct of that piety towards God, and charity towards man, which is the only sure foundation either of individual happiness or national prosperity." One part of this brief but expressive reply, was practically illustrated, before her Royal Highness quitted the city, by the munificent present of £100 to the Chester infirmary. From Eaton, the splendid seat of the Marquis of Westminster, the party turned towards the midland counties, and arrived at Chatsworth House, on the evening of the 19th. Hardwick, Chesterfield, and Matlock, were successively honoured by the presence of the heiress to the throne. At Alton Abbey the august tourists were received by the Earl of Shrewsbury, and at Lichfield a loyal address was presented to the Duchess and her Royal daughter, by the municipal body and the clergy. On the arrival of the noble visitors at Pitchford Hall, the seat of the Earl of Liverpool, they found the principal gentry of the county assembled to welcome them. Lady Catherine Jenkinson, one of the ladies in waiting, had been the companion of the Princess during her recent tour through North Wales. The grammar school of Shrewsbury, of which Dr. Butler, afterwards Bishop of Lichfield, was then the successful director, was honoured by a visit from her Royal Highness, whose last act in Shrewsbury, as well as in other large towns of the populous realm she was destined to rule over, was one of benevolence—a donation of £100 to the infirmary. From Shrewsbury the direction of the tour was through Worcester, Droitwich, and Bromsgrove, to Wytham, in Oxfordshire, where the visitors were welcomed with hospitality, and honour, by the Earl of Abingdon. On the follow-

ing day her Royal Highness, escorted by a body of mounted yeomanry, visited the ancient university of Oxford. The interior of the divinity-school excited the admiration of the party; and the spacious theatre, which was also visited, was filled in every part by the heads of colleges, doctors, nobility, &c. in their proper robes, to receive them. Here the vice-chancellor read an address suited to the happy occasion; to which the Duchess of Kent made the following answer:—"We close a most interesting tour by a visit to this university, that the Princess may see, as far as her years will allow, all that is interesting in it. The history of our country has taught her to know its importance, by the many distinguished persons, who, by their character and talents, have been raised to eminence by the education they have received in it. Your loyalty to the King, and recollection of the favour you have enjoyed under the paternal sway of his house, could not fail, I was sure, to lead you to receive his niece with all the disposition you evince to make the visit agreeable and instructive to her. It is my object to ensure, by all means in my power, her being so educated, as to meet the just expectation of all classes in this great and free country." After visiting the institutions of greatest attraction and interest in this intellectual city, the cortege departed for Kensington Palace, where they arrived in safety on the same day. It was the anxious wish of the Royal Princess to proceed instantly, notwithstanding the fatigue of her protracted journey, to the palace of Windsor, to pay her respects and acknowledgments to his Majesty; but a communication was made from thence, "that several cases of scarlet fever having occurred in Windsor and its vicinity, it was the desire of his Majesty that his royal niece should not encounter the risk of a visit to the Castle."

About this period public interest was excited by the trial of Mr. Pinney, late mayor of Bristol, for neglect of duty, in not having used due vigour in his magisterial capacity, during the memorable reform riots at Bristol. After a trial which lasted several days, the jury delivered the following special verdict:—"We are of opinion, that, circumstanced as he was—menaced and opposed by a reckless and infuriated mob—unsupported by any force, civil or military—and deserted in those quarters where he might most reasonably have expected assistance—Mr. Pinney had acted to the best of his judgment, with zeal, and personal courage."

Although not actually at war with any power, King William IVth was party to a treaty, with the King of the French, for the adoption of coercive measures against Holland, the object of which was to obtain the evacuation of Antwerp by the Dutch, on or before the 15th of November. To accomplish this design, the combined fleets of England and France formed at Spithead, on the 29th of October, and proceeded thence to the blockade of the Scheldt, an embargo having been laid on all Dutch vessels in British and French ports. About the same time, that was on the 15th day of November, a French army entered Belgium, and in a few days 55,000 French troops were set down before the citadel of Antwerp. Until the 24th of December following, the brave General Chassé defended the citadel, for his master, with an obstinacy and ability that cannot be too highly applauded by the historian. The best efforts were made use of by his enemies, the most able engineers employed, to undermine and destroy his works; but not until the interior of the citadel was laid in ruins, and an indefensible breach made by the besiegers, did the gallant commander capitulate to Marshal Gerard. The King of

Holland, however, still refused to surrender the forts of Lillo and Leifkenshok, or open the navigation of the Scheldt, and suffered his brave general to be carried away into captivity by the French. In this state our indirect dispute with Holland continued, until the 24th day of May in the following year, when a preliminary treaty was signed, by the plenipotentiaries of England, France, and Holland, in consequence of which the embargo was taken off Dutch vessels in the ports of England and France, the Dutch garrison released from imprisonment in France, and the navigation of the Scheldt thrown open.

CHAPTER X.

1833.

AT the close of 1832, and at the opening of the following year, Ireland was found to be rent by the struggles of contending parties. Tithe agitation had increased the outrageous fury of the people to such an extent, that it was suggested to arm the viceroy with extraordinary powers: if the state of excitation could have been further augmented by any act, save one of violence, it derived that additional impulse from the assemblage of a meeting called the "National Council." This convention numbered amongst its attendants, at its first meeting, thirty-two Irish members of parliament. Several topics were discussed by this body, but their deliberations led to no result worth recording. In this deplorable state of our Irish affairs, Parliament was opened by the King in person, who, in a long and full address, touching almost every serious political question, alluded to the continuance of the war in Portugal between the usurper Miguel and Queen Donna Maria; expressed his determination to persevere in effecting a permanent separation of Belgium from Holland; spoke of the approaching termination of the charters of the Bank, and of the East India Company; laid much stress on the then condition of the revenues of the Protestant church; and concluded by calling the attention of both houses to the peculiar circumstances of the Irish clergy, and to the investigation of whatever other causes existed, to which the

confusion and outrages in that part of the united kingdom were attributable; of this confusion, his Majesty spoke in these words: "The disturbances in Ireland have greatly increased; a spirit of insubordination and violence has risen to the most fearful height, rendering life and property insecure, defying the authority of the law, and threatening the most fatal consequences, if not promptly and effectually repressed. The legislative union between these two countries, I am determined to maintain by all the means in my power, as indissolubly connected with the peace, security, and welfare of my dominions."

This appeal to his Parliament was immediately followed by a bill for the suppression of disturbances in Ireland, permitting the viceroy to issue his proclamation, declaring any county disturbed; and subjecting the proclaimed district to the operation of a species of martial law. The bill met some slight opposition, but passed, ultimately, on the 22d of February, being, from the commencement, approved of by the Duke of Wellington. Upon its transmission to the House of Commons, a long and angry discussion took place. Mr. O'Connell designated the King's speech as "a brutal and bloody address," and as "a declaration of war against Ireland;" this intemperate language was checked by Mr. Stanley, who attributed Mr. O'Connell's precipitate warmth to the decided expressions of hostility to anti-unionists contained in the speech. Every inch of ground, every item in the bill, was obstinately disputed by its opponents, until the 1st day of April, when it passed by a majority of 259.

The first innovation made upon the established church, either as to its government or pecuniary resources, since the Revolution, took place in the reign of William IV.: of this change the ostensible author was Lord Althorp, son of Earl Spencer, and then chancellor of the exchequer. In a very

elaborate speech, his lordship stated the revenues of the Irish bishops to amount to £130,000—of the chapters, to £23,000; the total value of benefices was not accurately known. It was proposed to place the temporalities of the church in the hands of commissioners, who should exercise their discretion in augmenting small livings, extinguishing sinecures, providing a fund as substitution for church cess, and erecting churches and glebe houses. An important feature in Lord Althorp's bill was, the merging of ten Irish bishoprics in the remaining twelve. This notice was acted upon by his lordship on the 11th of March, when he laid on the table a bill "to alter and amend the temporalities of the established church of Ireland," and obtained a first reading by a majority of 141. After several alterations in the detail, but without the abandonment of the principal features, this great change in the Irish church establishment was finally agreed to by the House of Commons on the 8th of July, 1833; there being, for the third reading of the bill, 274—against the passing, 94.

While measures of Irish church reform, and further regulations, in addition to the original measure of Mr. Goulburn for the commutation of tithes, were proceeding, the clergy of that part of the United Kingdom were reduced to a condition of the extremest indigence and suffering. Many had fled from their livings from terror; others had withdrawn, because tithes were no longer paid by the occupiers of land in their parishes; part returned to the shelter of their relatives, whilst many subsisted upon potatoes and milk, continuing to discharge the sacred duties of their profession. The history of our church, since the days of Mary, did not present a parallel, taking into consideration the exemplary conduct, patience, and piety of the individuals belonging to the Irish established church, and the

hardships and privations, to which they were indiscriminately subjected by violent political factions. The humane disposition of the late King, manifested in so many and such repeated acts of benevolence, during a long and somewhat eventful life, could not suffer the deplorable insults and injuries inflicted upon his loyal, learned, and devoted Irish working clergy, to remain without redress. A subscription was immediately opened for the relief of the amiable victims, at the head of which stood the name of William IV., followed by that of his august Consort, and other members of the royal family, including her royal highness the Duchess of Kent. The dignitaries of the church followed, with unsparing liberality, the example of their Sovereign, and funds were soon forwarded to the Archbishop of Armagh for distribution. Before the bounty of the benevolent and distinguished contributors was exhausted, a sum of £60,000 was obtained from parliament, as a loan, to be advanced to those ministers who had been violently and illegally stripped of their incomes, government taking upon themselves the *onus* of collecting the arrears of tithe.

Disturbances, resistance to the payment of tithes, and assemblages of illegal societies, still continuing, the lord-lieutenant was reluctantly compelled to declare some of the counties of Ireland in a state of insurrection, and direct the provisions of the late act to be enforced in them, besides prohibiting and suppressing the political clubs called the "Irish Volunteers," and the "National Trades' Political Union." Associations, not unlike those of Ireland, sprung up in different places, even in the immediate vicinity of London. There, on the 13th of May, the committee of the self-styled "National Union of the Working Classes," called a meeting in Cold-Bath Fields, "to adopt

preparatory measures for holding a national convention, as the only means of obtaining and securing the rights of the people." A printed notice was issued from the Home-office, cautioning all persons from attending such illegal meeting, but whether, from the clumsy, imperfect character of the notice, or the determination of the operatives themselves, a crowded assembly was collected, carrying banners inscribed with "Death or Liberty," and other devices as foolishly and mischievously selected. Scarcely had the chair of this legislative assembly been filled, by a sapient political-unionist, when the interference of 1700 of the police put a termination to further proceedings, and caused a very general flight. In the tumult that ensued, one policeman was killed, and two severely wounded with daggers. The state of public excitation at this particular period was such, over nearly the whole kingdom, that the inquest that sat on the body of the murdered policeman brought in a verdict of justifiable homicide against the assassin; and a second jury, at the Old Bailey sessions, acquitted him altogether.

A circumstance probably accidental, certainly not presenting any appearance of previous concert, which occurred at this time, had nearly displaced his Majesty's ministers. On the 26th of April, the Marquis of Chandos, in his place in parliament, moved, that in any reduction of taxation, the interests of the agriculturists should be duly considered and protected. Lord Althorp resisted this proposal successfully. Sir W. Ingilby then proposed a reduction of the malt duty from 20s. 8d. to 10s. the quarter, for which motion there were, on a division, 162, against it, 152. The result of this decision placed Lord Althorp and the ministry in a situation of embarrassment, from which they were released in a manner as bungling, and unexpected, as that by which they were involved. Alderman Sir John Key,

a popular city member, had undertaken to move for the total repeal of the window tax, on the 30th of the month, by the unexpected reduction of the malt tax, the house itself had deprived the country of so much revenue, and was bound, accordingly, to supply the deficiency from some other source. When, therefore, the repeal of the window tax was proposed, both sides of the house felt it incumbent on them to reject that important application; by which decision, the ministerial ship was again righted. Had Sir John Key postponed his motion for a few days, he would have turned out the ministers, and subsequently, without doubt, have released his constituents, and the nation, from an irksome impost, one that must for ever be odious to a free people.

We now approach another measure, which will always continue to characterize the reign of William IV.; it was peculiarly suitable to the reign of a monarch distinguished in early life for an overflow of kindly and affectionate feeling to his companions, fellow-sailors, and fellow-creatures, and whose advanced years were graced by innumerable acts of the most unostentatious benevolence. It was reserved for the age of this patriotic and charitable king, to extend the blessings of freedom to his enslaved subjects, in the western world, and to tell the children of the sun, in the language of the great poet of our island, "Free you were created, free you shall remain." The ministerial plan for the extinction of colonial slavery was formally proposed in the House of Commons, by Mr. Stanley, on the 14th of May. The plan implied, that the slave should be prepared for the enjoyment of entire freedom, by an apprenticeship to his masters, during which he was "not to be subjected to vexatious enactments, or anything likely to degrade him in his own estimation; he was to be undisturbed in his worship and instruction, not to be exposed to corporal punishment, but to

have his evidence received, and his family respected." The debates on this interesting question were conducted with becoming temper, although several members of the House were deeply and personally concerned in its future consequences. One of the resolutions of the committee of the House, which it is necessary to mention here, empowered ministers to grant £20,000,000, as compensation to the West India planters. On the 12th of June the report was agreed to, and a bill ordered to be brought in conformable to the resolutions, the principal of which have been here enumerated, and on which Mr. (afterwards Lord) Stanley formed his memorable bill for the abolition of slavery.

A question of the highest commercial importance next arose, by the approaching termination of the charter of the Bank of England: this difficulty was met on the part of the chancellor of the exchequer, by the exchange of a new deed of incorporation, continuing the monopoly of public circulation to that body; not permitting a banking company of more than six partners to issue paper within sixty-five miles of the metropolis; granting a duration of twenty-one years to the new charter, with a reservation to the Government of destroying it after ten years' operation; establishing, that Bank of England paper should be a legal tender every where, except at the Bank and its branches; and, prohibiting the issuing of bank notes under the value of £5. Less opposition was given to this renewal of monopoly, than might reasonably have been expected, or been beneficially given; and, after a short consideration of its clauses, it soon became the law.

Reform still proceeded in the institutions of Great Britain, and the long-enjoyed monopoly of the East India trade was now to be dissipated. It is true, the government of the vast continent of British India is still committed to the East

India Company, but they no longer retain their commercial character, the trade with China being thrown open to British merchants generally. As a compensation for the transfer of their privileges and advantages to Government, the Company was granted an annuity of £630,000, charged on the territory of India.

During the remainder of the parliamentary session, several acts and measures of utility, and humanity, were passed, amongst the latter was the factories regulation bill, declaring, that after the expiration of six months, no child, under eleven years of age, should be permitted to work more than eight hours a day: after twelve months from that date, the same privilege was to be extended to those of twelve years old, and, after two years, to those of thirteen. The necessity, as well as humanity of this enactment, will appear from the melancholy truth, that many victims, of previous factory regulations, were found decrepit, worn out, and apparently aged, before they had reached their 28th year.

That the agreeable and useful may be often advantageously united, is happily illustrated by an event, that occurred at Southampton on the 8th of July. This was the opening of the new pier, at that elegant and fashionable watering place, in presence of about 20,000 spectators, who were assembled on the occasion. The appointed day was one of those, passed so beneficially to her health at Norris Castle, by her present Majesty, Victoria I., who graciously condescended, accompanied by her august mother, to witness and take part in the ceremony. At twelve o'clock the procession, formed at the town-hall, advanced to the pier: while a deputation of the municipal officers proceeded to the Royal yacht, to conduct their future monarch to the pier. As soon as the object of their mission was made known, the Duchess of Kent observed, "that it was an

advantage to the Princess to be taught thus early the importance attached to works of utility—that she was always anxious to impress this view upon her mind.” Their Royal Highnesses having landed, walked along the pier, which constituted the opening, and having received the dutiful address of the corporation, the Duchess said, with the greatest affability of manner, “It affords me great pleasure to name this *the Royal Pier*; and I am to add *our* sincere and good wishes that it may promote the prosperity of the town.’ Having taken leave of the authorities, the Princess returned to Cowes. In the course of the day, a regatta took place; public dinners were given at the halls and inns; and fireworks at night-fall exhibited on the Royal pier.

It was not the habit of William IV. to conceal himself from the view of his loyal subjects; he had no secret misgivings at his heart, that should cause him to shrink from their affectionate regard; on the contrary, he made it a point of conscience to appear at his official post, and to receive and dismiss his parliament in person. In the speech which he delivered from the throne on the 2d of August, on the prorogation of both houses, he declared “that subjects of greater interest or magnitude had never called for their attention than those just disposed of: he regretted that a final adjustment of the dispute between Belgium and Holland had not yet been made; he congratulated the nation on the expulsion of Don Miguel from the throne of Portugal, and informed parliament of his having renewed his diplomatic relations with the court of her most faithful majesty at Lisbon: he touched briefly on the settlement of the Bank and East India charters; abolition of slavery; and improvements in the proceedings of the courts of law. His Majesty added, that commissions were issued for digesting into one body

the enactments of the criminal law, and for investigating the state of the municipal corporations through the united kingdom.

“ It was,” said King William, “ with the greatest pain that I felt myself compelled to call upon you for additional powers to control and punish the disturbers of the public peace in Ireland; and I have the satisfaction to inform you, that I have exercised that power to a limited extent, and with the happiest results:—return now to your respective counties, and direct your attentions still to objects of equal utility. And, in this useful and honourable discharge, both of your public and private duties, under the blessing of Divine Providence, I confidently rely, for the encouragement and support of my people in that love of liberty and order, that spirit of industry and obedience to the laws, and that moral worth, which constitute the safety and happiness of nations.”

Thus terminated the first session of the Reformed Parliament; a session more remarkable for its inconvenient length, than for the variety and quality of its labours. The new machine had worked more kindly than even its friends had predicted, from so unripe an experiment; and it signally disappointed the forebodings of its enemies, who stigmatized it, by anticipation, as “ a slave and pander to the lawless mob,—as a wild democracy, inconsistent with the maintenance of property and order, and repugnant to the spirit of our monarchical constitution.”

Immediately after the close of the parliamentary session the young Queen of Portugal arrived at Portsmouth, attended by the Duchess of Braganza, having been conveyed from Havre by his Majesty’s steam-vessel the *Echo*. The royal visitors were welcomed with all the honours due to crowned heads; and, having received special invitations from the King and Queen, proceeded to Windsor, where they were entertained with that hospitality for which William the Fourth was so peculiarly distinguished. After a week passed in partaking of the festivities of Windsor

Castle, Donna Maria returned to Portsmouth, where she was honoured by a visit from the Princess Victoria and her august mother; and the next day, setting sail for Portugal, arrived at Lisbon on the 22d of September, and ascended the throne of her forefathers, which she has ever since continued to occupy for the happiness of her subjects.

The mild and gentle policy, of the British monarch, was mainly contributory to the restoration of public order in Portugal, and the establishment of Donna Maria on the throne which her noble father had vacated for her: but scarcely had this happy object been attained, when the death of the King of Spain, and the provisions of his last will, kindled the flames of a civil war in that country, which King William IV. did not live to see extinguished. The Salic law had been abrogated in Spain, shortly previous to the decease of Ferdinand; and, by that king's will, his infant daughter, Isabella, was declared to be his successor on the throne. Notwithstanding these precautionary measures, to ensure a quiet succession, Don Carlos has been enabled to continue a merciless civil war for upwards of four years, during which victory seems to alternate, with such regularity, as still to leave the issue of the contest doubtful. William IV. professed the most decided neutrality in this sanguinary strife, but did not prohibit, or prevent any of his enterprising subjects from enlisting in the service of her most faithful Majesty.

Amongst the few amiable intentions, which are said to have originated with the illustrious predecessor of William IV. was that of restoring the ancient and honourable order of the Knights of Windsor to its original state of respectability. It was an additional source of happiness to the late King, to discover any act of benevolence left for him to consummate; and, on the 17th of September, he issued a

warrant to the following effect: "That, taking into our royal consideration, that several persons who are now on the royal foundation, as well as those on the private or lower foundation, have respectively served as officers in our army, bearing our royal commission, we have thought fit to alter the designation of the several persons aforesaid; and we do hereby declare and ordain, that they, and those who may be appointed to succeed to their places, shall henceforward, and upon all occasions, be distinguished as 'Military Knights of Windsor.'" This was a reward due to conspicuous merit, and the conferring of it sprang from an honourable, a noble military feeling, on the part of the King.

CHAPTER X.

1834.

THE nation was now accustomed to behold the Sovereign of these great realms, always, in that precise position, to which his duties first, his benevolent feelings subsequently, called him; and, accordingly, on the opening of the parliament on the 4th of February in this year, his Majesty, in person, received his faithful deputies. In the address which he delivered on this occasion, he congratulated mankind on the extinction of the traffic in human beings, which had so long disgraced the world; he directed the attention of parliament to the reports of the commissioners, whom he had appointed to inquire into our municipal institutions; and spoke, in the general terms of which kings' speeches are uniformly composed, of the quarrels, disturbances, and reconciliations amongst foreign states. The speech concluded, as many of its kindred compositions had done for centuries before, with expressions of deep regret, and painful feelings, at the continued resistance to legislative enactments, evinced by his Irish subjects; their opposition to tithes, and, even in some cases, to rent; and, the actual demand, by one party in that kingdom, for a repeal of the union between these kingdoms. This unimportant speech received the customary complimentary answer, from their lordships, whose debates, during nearly two succeeding months, had reference to petitions from and concerning the dissenters, who then urged their claims, for relief from the civil disabilities, which

pressed unequally upon them, in comparison with their fellow-subjects of different religious creeds.

Lord Althorp, in the House of Commons, brought forward a measure which caused but little excitation at its first announcement, but which has subsequently exposed its framers and advocates to popular clamour, and, on some occasions, to popular rage; this was, the Poor Law Amendment bill. The chief features of this measure were, the establishment of a central board of commissioners in London, with very great and alarming powers; to restrict, nay, withdraw, all privilege of out-door relief; to abolish every mode of acquiring a settlement, except only those acquired by birth or marriage; children, up to their sixteenth year, to follow the settlement of their parents, after that period, their settlement to be the place of their birth; the reputed father of an illegitimate child not to be imprisoned, but the mother to be liable for the support of her child, in the manner of a pauper widow. A bill was ultimately brought in, embodying these provisions, and became, with its obvious hardships, the law of the land.

Notwithstanding the very decided tone, manner, and language of the King, in his late address to parliament, relative to the legislative union existing between Great Britain and Ireland, Mr. O'Connell had the moral courage to move for a select committee "to inquire and report on the means by which a dissolution of the parliament of Ireland was effected; on the effects of that measure upon Ireland, and upon the labourers in husbandry, and operatives in manufactures in England, and on the probable consequences of continuing the legislative union between both countries." The speech by which the motion was introduced, called forth the best energies of Mr. Spring Rice, (afterwards chancellor of the Exchequer,) who, in an

elaborate statistical, and political explanation, endeavoured to point out and overturn fallacies in the reasonings of the learned member. Mr. Rice gave a full history of the mutations effected by the union; shewed that it had been the source of much commercial prosperity to Ireland, and had released that country from the tyranny of the wealthier classes. He asserted, that a repeal of the union would be attended with a substitution of a fierce, and democratic republic, for that constitutional monarchy under which they then lived, and prospered. The honourable member concluded by moving an humble address to his Majesty, "expressing the fixed determination of both Houses of Parliament to maintain inviolate the legislative union between Great Britain and Ireland, as necessary to the safety of the general interests of the state, the security and happiness of all classes of his Majesty's subjects; and concluding, by assuring his Majesty, that it was the determination of Parliament to persevere in applying its best attention to the removal of all the just causes of complaint, alleged by the people of Ireland, and to the promotion of all well-considered measures of rational liberty."

However posterity may regard the motion of Mr. O'Connell, for a legislative separation of the British Isles, few of his cotemporaries; outside the walls of the House of Commons, viewed the question with such grave and serious feelings as Mr. Rice. Such an idea was perfectly chimerical, whether the interest of Ireland were, or were not involved. Sir Robert Peel replied as sufficiently to the question, as if he had produced a thousand volumes of statistical results to the House: he affirmed, that it would be as reasonable to ask for a revival of the heptarchy as for a repeal of the union, which *must not*, could not be conceded; and the House being then of the same opinion,

that England is always likely to entertain, respecting so near and so valuable a portion of territory, rejected the motion by a majority of 485 votes. This conclusive result was solemnly approved by his Majesty, who communicated to both Houses, through the lord chancellor, his determination "to maintain inviolate the legislative union between Great Britain and Ireland, on the stability of which must depend the peace and prosperity of the British empire."

During the prevalence of illegal associations, partly political, and partly connected with the improvement of wages, six Dorsetshire labourers were convicted of administering unlawful oaths, and sentenced, in consequence, to transportation. To obtain a remission of this sentence, a body, styling themselves the "Trades' Union" of the metropolis, assembled, to the number of 30,000, and, being marshalled into files, proceeded, in the most orderly manner, through the principal streets of London, to the office of Lord Melbourne, for the purpose of delivering into his lordship's hands their petition to the King. On their arrival at the home-office, a deputation entered, and asked the honour of an interview with the noble secretary: this request was then respectfully refused; but the deputies were informed, that, if their petition were presented on another day, and in a more becoming manner, it should be laid at the feet of a feeling and forgiving Sovereign. When this intelligence was communicated to the vast assemblage, then congregated on Kennington Common, they separated, apparently satisfied, without being guilty of the slightest breach of order, and returned, in a manner that cannot be too much admired, to their private homes.

The measure of reform which William IV. had personally approved, and, in his royal capacity, confirmed,

alarmed the party who had resigned, or been deprived of power, for the safety of some of the most ancient and most valuable institutions of the realm ; amongst others, for the church establishment of these kingdoms. Influenced by these apprehensions, the laity, or rather a very numerous body of the higher classes of society, prepared and presented an address to his Majesty, at a levee held on the 27th of May, in the year 1834, expressive of their attachment to the Church of England, and their conviction, that its separation from the state would be destructive of the moral and religious character of the realm. This address drew from his Majesty the most candid, and unequivocal expressions, of attachment and devotion to the Protestant reformed religion and national church ; and of his firm determination to uphold, by every means in his power, its connection with the institutions of the country. A reply so manly, and unpremeditated, calmed the fears of those who trembled for our late King's religious opinions, and adherence to the principles, to which his illustrious Family are indebted for their exalted place amongst the reigning powers of Europe. The address of the laity, accompanied by the answer of King William, was afterwards entrusted to the Archbishop of Canterbury, to be deposited amongst the archives of Lambeth Palace.

King William IV. seemed at home in the midst of thousands ; he reigned not only over, but in the hearts of his subjects ; and no king, perhaps, ever felt less inconvenience, or more sincere pleasure, at giving his personal attendance, countenance, and example, to great public meetings for humane and charitable objects. On the 24th of June the late King, accompanied by Queen Adelaide, by her present Majesty, Queen Victoria, by the Duchess of Kent, Princess Augusta, and other members of the royal family,

honoured the royal musical festival, at Westminster Abbey, with his presence. Although the price of admission varied from one to two guineas each ticket, and in some instances ten guineas were paid for one, the popularity of his late Majesty was so great, that the entire area of the nave, the space within the aisles, and the great galleries at each side, were filled to overflowing. Besides the nobility and gentry of the kingdom, their graces the archbishops of Canterbury, York, and Armagh appeared, appropriately, in that venerable christian temple, and encouraging, by their presence, a work of charity. The assemblage of musicians was, of course, considerable; 250 instrumental performers were in attendance, and every arrangement was conducted with the most admirable exactness. The festival was continued during four performances, all of which were honoured by the presence of the King and Queen; and the net profits, amounting to £7,600, were divided between the Royal Society of Musicians, the New Musical Fund, the Royal Academy of Music, and the Choral Fund.

In the month of July, Queen Adelaide, having taken an affectionate farewell of her illustrious partner, embarked at Woolwich for the Continent, on a visit to her noble mother, the Duchess of Saxe Meiningen. Her Majesty was attended, as far as Southend, by the Lord Mayor and the different companies, in their state barges, and having landed in Holland, passed through Rotterdam and Nimeguen, to her destination. Her Majesty remained abroad until the 21st of August, when she was again welcomed to the British shores, by the chief magistrate and other civic authorities of London, as well as by the enthusiastic cheers of a people, who were capable of appreciating the worth of a moral and virtuous example, in so exalted an individual as the Queen-Consort of this great nation.

A few days after the departure of his Queen, King William held a levee, which was attended rather more numerously than any other during that year; a circumstance, probably, attributable to the desire, on the part of those already designated "The Protestant Laity," of expressing, in the most unequivocal manner, their gratitude for his Majesty's recent declaration in favour of the established church. This was done by the presentation of very many addresses and petitions, all of which were received with grace, and acknowledged with frankness and truth. The season being now far advanced, and the public business having obtained a full measure of consideration, from all branches of the legislature, parliament was prorogued by the King, in person, on the 15th day of August, with a speech that does not require any particular notice here. It is necessary, however, to state, that, before the prorogation, a circumstance connected with the government of the country occurred, in which the feelings of the King, personally, were much engaged, and his firmness, as a ruler, put to a very decided test. Earl Grey having felt it expedient to renew the operation of the coercion bill in Ireland, cabinet consultations, relative to that question, were divulged inadvertently. This untoward event led to the resignation both of Lord Althorp and of Earl Grey, but of no other members of the cabinet. The opposition, however, exhibited the utmost readiness to receive the commands of his Majesty, and again undertake the government of the country. For awhile public expectation was at the highest degree of tension, and hourly reports were circulated of the success of the opposing candidates for place and power. The King, however, decided for himself and by himself, and, accepting of the resignation of the premier, who seemed resolved upon retiring, for ever, from the arena of politics, continued Lord

Althorp in the high office of chancellor of the exchequer. In the space of eight days from the resignation of Earl Grey, the administration was constructed, and engaged in public business, under the direction of Lord Melbourne, the only new or important accession to its ranks.

During the recess, and while their Majesties were residing at Windsor, an event occurred in the metropolis, which may with propriety be designated as a national calamity—the destruction, by fire, of both houses of parliament. Besides the actual halls of assembly, nearly all the offices, the painted chamber, associated with a thousand historical recollections, and the libraries of both houses, all fell a prey to the devouring element. The flames burst forth about half-past six o'clock on the evening of the 16th of October, near to the entrance of both houses, and in less than half an hour from the first appearance of the conflagration, the whole interior of the building presented, through the numerous windows with which it was pierced, one entire mass of fire. All attempts to save the ancient and beautiful chapel of St. Stephen proving abortive, the firemen were directed to give all their attention, and bestow all their efforts upon the preservation of the venerable pile of Westminster Hall; in which, providentially, they were successful. Amongst the spectators of this memorable and much to be regretted conflagration, were Lord Melbourne, Lord Althorp, and other members of his Majesty's government; and amongst the earliest visitors of the awful scene, on the following day, were their Majesties, who left Windsor for London, the moment they were made acquainted with the painful intelligence.—Amongst the irreparable losses, then sustained, in arts, antiquities, and general interest, were the fragments in the painted chamber, the original warrant for the execution of Charles I., a collection of books presented by the French government, and the

tapestry representing the defeat of the Spanish Armada. The records of the Augmentation, after being thrown out of the windows into the street, were recovered, and are but little injured; and one curiosity, connected with parliamentary history, miraculously escaped, namely, an oak table stained with the blood of prime-minister Perceval, which stood almost in the centre of the conflagration.

Various rumours were, for a time, afloat, as to the origin of this calamitous fire, and by many it was attributed to the basest motives, and basest of mortals; but, for the honour of the nation, and of the inhabitants of the metropolis, more especially, upon a strict, careful, and minute investigation, made by the lords of the privy council, it was ascertained, that the fire was accidental, attributable to carelessness in burning the wooden tallies, of the late receipts of the exchequer, in the grates of the House of Lords, whereby the flues became overheated. Before this report was made by the council, £30,000 had been granted for the construction of temporary chambers for the great councils of the nation, and, not long afterwards, a premium of £1500 was awarded to Mr. Barry, for his splendid and convenient design for a senate-house and offices, which it is at present the intention of the country to adopt.

On the 30th day of November, in this year, after a painful illness of one fortnight's duration, expired, in the 59th year of his age, his royal highness William Frederick, Duke of Gloucester, third child of William Henry, Duke of Gloucester, third son of Frederick Prince of Wales. He had distinguished himself as a brave soldier, in the early part of his life, and in his later years was equally conspicuous by his charitable disposition. In politics he generally joined the liberal party, but he cannot, with justice, be claimed by any, having stipulated, on his marriage with the Princess Mary,

fourth daughter of George III. to be left perfectly at liberty in all political transactions, nor were the ties of kindred, or of wedlock, to be calculated upon as influencing his political conduct. The town of Cheltenham had long been favoured by the residence of his royal highness and august partner; and those who knew him most intimately, the inhabitants of that enlightened town, thus characterized him in their address of condolence to his widowed Duchess:—"As the poor man's friend—the liberal patron and supporter of all charitable institutions, which have for their object the temporal and eternal welfare of our fellow-creatures—as an example in the observance of religious duties, and in his undeviating attachment to that religion, which, under God, was the means of placing his illustrious family on the throne of this realm; the memory of his royal highness will long be cherished." The duke died, with marked fortitude and resignation, at Bagshot Park, having given distinct directions that his remains should be placed between those of his parents; and, that when the then surviving branches of his family should have followed him to the tomb, the vault that contained them should be closed up for ever. His coffin was removed to Windsor, with all due respect and ceremony, and laid in the resting-place of his royal house, according to his desire.—The obituary of the same month in which the Duke of Gloucester passed from the great theatre of this world, contains the record of Lord Spencer's decease, father of the chancellor of the exchequer. His lordship had attained his 76th year, and, at such an age, his death would not have attracted public attention, had it not been connected with the advancement of Lord Althorp to the peerage, and the unexpected dissolution of the administration.

On Saturday morning, the 15th of November, the

metropolis was astonished, by the intelligence, that the King had dissolved the administration. Lord Melbourne waited on the King, at his palace at Brighton, on the previous Thursday, and returned to town the following night, to communicate the event to his colleagues. His Majesty, it was supposed, had not expressed any dissatisfaction with his ministers, but stated, that on the elevation of Lord Althorp he considered that administration at an end. The King now resolved upon the construction of a new cabinet, and believing that a reaction so strong had taken place in public feeling, as to warrant him in again calling the conservatives to his councils, he sent for the Duke of Wellington, whom he intrusted with the task of forming a conservative administration. The first object of the Duke's association in his ministry was, of course, Sir Robert Peel; and, until the return of that eminent statesman, from Rome, all ministerial appointments were suspended. Perhaps a higher compliment was scarcely ever paid to a political character than the Duke of Wellington, in this manner, extended to his friend; and, assuredly, no higher degree of confidence was ever reposed, by a monarch, in a subject, than King William IV. placed in the Duke of Wellington, by committing to him the control of all public affairs and measures, until the various appointments were made out. On the return of Sir Robert Peel, he was placed at the head of a new administration; but he was unable to collect around him those of his own party, who could have given stability to his government. He was strongly supported by his friends in the house, but some of the wisest, and most able amongst them, declined accepting office. In this difficulty his Majesty resolved upon dismissing the old parliament, and ascertaining, by summoning a new one, whether the boasted reaction had taken place; and, on the 30th of December, the

gazette contained a proclamation, announcing the dissolution of parliament, and notifying that the writs were to be returnable on the 19th of February.

The country was thrown, by this sudden step, into a very unusual degree of excitation; and, when parliament met on the 19th of February, the interest was still further excited by the prospect of a very violent contest for the election of a speaker. The candidates, for this high and important office, were Sir Charles Manners Sutton, afterwards Lord Canterbury, who had long filled the speaker's chair with so much dignity and ability; and Mr. James Abercromby, who was, confessedly, a reformer. Upon a division, there appeared for the latter 316, for the late speaker 306, giving a majority, in favour of the reform interest, of ten votes, in one of the fullest houses recorded; a result by no means propitious to the new administration. On the 24th the King opened the new Parliament in the accustomed form, with a speech of more than usual length, but containing only the usual subjects. The destruction of the Houses of Parliament was a new topic, introduced into the Royal speech, which gave it something of the character of deviation from routine.

Although the speech actually contained nothing, even those contents were obnoxious to the opposition, who attached an amendment to the answer sent up to the throne, disapproving of the late dissolution of parliament. To this the King replied, with that promptness and fearlessness which were innate in his character, "I learn, with regret, that you do not concur with me in the policy of the appeal, which I have recently made to the sense of my people. I never have exercised, and I never will exercise, any of the prerogatives which I hold, excepting for the single purpose of promoting the great end for which they are entrusted to me—the public good."

After an ineffectual struggle, on the part of Sir Robert Peel's administration, the reformers obtaining the most decided majorities, on the 8th of April the premier stated, "that himself and his colleagues, finding it impossible to carry measures, had tendered their resignations." That they had continued in office as long as they saw a chance of effectually and honourably promoting the public service, not allowing disgust, disappointment, or the consideration of private feelings, to have any weight with them. That submission, however, had its limit, that limit had now approached, and the time had come to withdraw from further contest.—The question which ultimately caused the retirement of the Peel administration was "for commuting the tithe in Ireland," on which the ministers were beaten by a majority of 27.

The retirement of Sir Robert Peel gave William IV. the opportunity of appointing the last administration over which he was destined to preside. On the day following the resignation of the Conservatives, Lord Lansdowne, Lord Melbourne, and others of their supporters, waited on his Majesty by command; and the good old King desired Lord Melbourne to form an administration on a lasting basis: with this command his lordship had the good fortune to comply so fully, that his cabinet outlived its royal master.

The first important labour of the house of Lords, after the last establishment of Lord Melbourne's administration by the late King, was the passing of the municipal reform bill, and this certainly proved to be hard labour; the Duke of Wellington opposing it, both by the weight of argument, and of great personal character; and Lord Lyndhurst with a degree of legal knowledge, and a strain of eloquence and ability, superior even to the high estimate the nation had previously formed of his acquirements. The passing of the

bill was retarded, (during which delay its features were much altered,) until the eighth day of September. Before its provisions were finally agreed to, counsel were heard at their lordships' bar; from which no result of consequence followed, nor concerning which any fact of interest deserves recording, except the display of legal knowledge, and advocating-ability, displayed by the learned recorder of Bristol. He was not successful, in convincing the ministerial side of the house, of the injury sustained by his numerous clients, but he obtained, even from that side, a full measure of approbation for his genius and learning.

The same legislative enactments occupied the lower house, but under circumstances directly contrary; there the ministers had a majority in every measure, about equivalent to the minority in which Lord Melbourne was generally left in the other house. In the speech which his Majesty addressed to Parliament on the eighth of September, the day of prorogation, he congratulated the nation upon the treaties he had been able to induce Denmark, Sardinia, and Sweden to sign, for the extinction of negro-slavery. He expressed his approbation of a reform in the municipal corporations of England, and spoke of a happier state of things as existing in Ireland. The rest of this customary appeal, was, on this occasion, free from the charge of any definite meaning.

In the year 1835 his Majesty had, for the second time, during his brief, but busy reign, an opportunity of witnessing the interesting custom of the "Eton Montem." Their Majesties appeared to have participated heartily in the joyous feelings of the youthful procession on the preceding occasion; nor was their kindly and affectionate interest apparently diminished, at the repetition which they honoured with their presence on the 19th of June. The captain this year, who possessed the appropriate name of

Money, received £1000, collected in the presence of her present Majesty, Queen Victoria, the Duchess of Kent, the Duke of Cumberland, (King of Hanover,) and his son, Prince George.

Although no subject of utility, no occasion of gratifying festivity, was neglected by the late King, under an impression that he was contributing, by his attendance, either to the benefit or happiness of his people; yet in none, certainly, did he more warmly or sincerely participate, than in the celebration of the anniversary of the battle of the Nile which took place this year. On the 3d of August, England's Sailor-King, accompanied by his royal Consort, went in state, by water, to Greenwich Hospital, accompanied by the Lord Mayor and the civic authorities, in their magnificent state-barges. On their arrival they were received and welcomed by the governor, Sir Thomas Hardy, the friend and companion of the immortal Nelson, who entertained their Majesties at a splendid dejeuner, in the Painted Hall; after which he conducted them through the different apartments, where every thing, connected with the comfort of the brave occupants, was honoured by the careful notice of his Majesty. The high state of order, and the strict attention to the wants of the invalids, obtained the warmest acknowledgments of the King; and, being escorted to the water-side, again, by the governor, he embarked for St. James's, amidst the reiterated cheers of his grateful sailor-subjects, many of them the companions of his youthful days.

Delicacy of health, and declining years, limited the benevolent king, in his personal exertions to encourage, to patronize, to foster every useful and noble institution of his kingdom; but he had a heart to beat for, and a mind to reflect on, the blessings of those ancient appendages of British reputation, from which issued forth, into the world of action, the boldest as well as the brightest spirits. Time

and events have since shewn, that conjugal affection, in all its sincerity and devotedness, existed between the royal pair, so recently seated on the throne of Great Britain, from which it may fairly be argued, that every public act of one was identical, or correspondent, in the most entire manner, with the wishes of the other. Political, nay, popular feeling, insinuated an indifference, on the part of the late King, to the interests of the reformed protestant church; this his Majesty unequivocally contradicted, by his *viva voce* replies to the laity, and to the clerical convocation, and confirmed by the visit of Queen Adelaide to the ancient city and university of Oxford, on the 19th of October, 1835. Her Majesty, on her arrival, accompanied by the Duchess of Saxe-Weimar, was received in the great theatre of the university. The lower gallery being crowded with ladies, elegantly habited, and the floor occupied by masters of arts, and their friends. On the right of the throne were two richly gilt chairs of state, one of which was occupied by her Majesty, the other by the Duchess of Saxe-Weimar. The Duke of Wellington, as chancellor of the university, delivered a suitable address to her Majesty, to which she was pleased to read an appropriate answer. The Duke then took his seat, and the honorary degrees of Doctor of Civil Laws were then conferred upon Prince Ernest of Hesse-Philipsthal, Earl Howe, Earl of Denbigh, and the Hon. W. Ashley. Her Majesty next proceeded to the town-hall, where she received an address from the city authorities, and, having entertained a select party at the Angel inn, held a drawing-room from nine to eleven o'clock. The following day, after receiving, most graciously, an address from the county, her Majesty proceeded to the Radcliffe Library, where she was addressed by the bishop

and clergy of the diocese, and entertained with a magnificent *dejeunè*, provided by the provost and fellows of Queen's College. The printing-office formed the next object of her Majesty's curiosity, after which, each and every suitable subject of interest, value, or beauty, was successively submitted to the royal inquiry. Her Majesty entertained a select number of guests again, on the second day of her visit to Oxford, and, having bade farewell to this venerable seat of learning, took the way of Blenheim for Strathfieldsaye.

CHAPTER XI.

1836.

THE early part of the year 1836 was passed by their Majesties at Brighton, in the extension of the rights of hospitality to the nobility and gentry, who usually pass the season at that fashionable watering-place, and in the exchange of affectionate feeling, with the members and connexions of the royal family. The naval heroes of Great Britain, who were attracted within the sphere of the court, by the fellow-feeling always evinced towards them by their Sailor-King, caught up the spirit of mirth from their royal master, and announced their intention of entertaining four hundred persons of rank and fortune, with a splendid fête, at the Old Ship tavern. The King did not attend, in person, but was represented by his son, Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence, seconded by Sir Edward Codrington. The entertainment was on the most splendid scale; every delicacy which nature and art could produce, at that season, appeared on the table, which was also adorned with candelabra and plate from the King's palace.

It was during the residence of the court at Brighton about this period, that his Majesty granted an audience to Mr. Moon, at which he was permitted to present Dove's etching of Wilkie's noble picture, "The Preaching of Knox before the Lords of the Congregation." Both the King and Queen expressed the highest gratification at this beautiful specimen of the art, in every way worthy of the celebrated original. The whole season was marked by the greatest

gaiety and hilarity; the naval entertainment had been preceded by a military ball and supper, of nearly equal splendour, and both followed after a most magnificent juvenile party, and other amusements, given at the Pavilion.

While festivities and rational mirth found encouragement from the royal party, the King himself was scrupulously attentive to his valuable health, and still more attentive to the business of the country. His usual routine was, to rise at eight o'clock precisely; transact business with his secretary, ministers, &c. during the whole of the forenoon; take a ride for two hours before dinner; and, after receiving his family and invited guests, retire to bed at eleven o'clock. Thus supplied with a fair portion of renewed health, he removed his court to London, where one of his first meetings, with the most numerous assemblage as well as most distinguished individuals, of his courtiers, was at the anniversary celebration of her Majesty's, Queen Adelaide's, natal day. On this occasion, the happy return was marked by testimonies, honourable and repeated. A dinner and concert at the palace, entertainments on the most magnificent scale at the different ministers' private houses, followed by illuminations, very generally extended, in the west end of the metropolis. Our present gracious Queen, Victoria I., accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, paid a visit of congratulation to Queen Adelaide, on the attainment of an additional year of happiness and honour, and was received with the warmest enthusiasm by the people, who accompanied her, in large numbers, the whole of the way from Kensington Palace to St. James's. Their future sovereign gave abundant proofs of affability and condescension of manner, by acknowledging, feelingly and frequently, the hearty plaudits of the happy crowd. On this occasion, the illustrious Princess was remarked to be in possession of health

and high spirits, and the grace, beauty, and simplicity, of her dress, continued for some time after to constitute a theme of unusual admiration amongst the softer sex.

About this period, during the holding of levees and drawing-rooms, and a succession of entertainments by the royal family and nobility, (in the preparations for which many thousands were beneficially expended amongst the industrious and the necessitous,) a welcome accession of illustrious visitors was made to those already enjoying the Royal festivity. These new arrivals included His Royal Highness, Prince Ferdinand of Portugal, his father, the duke of Saxe-Coburg Gotha; his brother, Augustus; and the Prince Ernest of Leiningen, son of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent. The illustrious party having been delayed at Calais, for a few days, by tempestuous weather, crossed over to Dover, where they were unable to effect a landing, whence they proceeded to Ramsgate, and there disembarked, in presence of a numerous assembly of spectators, elegantly attired, who thronged the pier to receive the illustrious party. The royal standard was hoisted, the different vessels in the harbour displayed their flags, and the scene altogether was truly animating. From the disappointment occasioned by the impracticability of landing at Dover, the Portuguese minister and Lord Elphinstone, who were in waiting, with the royal carriages, to convey the prince and his suite to Kensington Palace, were unable to fulfil their agreeable duty; nor did they reach Ramsgate until the illustrious visitors had left for the metropolis. The Prince of Portugal was received, by his royal relatives and friends, with the most distinguished courtesy; the Duchess of Kent gave a series of entertainments in compliment to him; the King also invited the principal of the nobility and ministers of state, to meet him at Windsor,

and accompanied his royal highness, on the turning out of a stag, to Ditton Park, the seat of Earl Montague. Prince Ferdinand continued to participate in the hospitalities of the British court until the beginning of April, having decided upon deferring his final departure for Portugal, until after the 26th day of March, the anniversary of the death of the ill-fated Duke of Leuchtenberg, the first prince-consort of Portugal.

The transfer of power, place, and influence from the Tory, now Conservative, party, to their rivals, by the enactment of the reform bill, had engendered animosities of the bitterest kind. The English municipal bill opened the wounds afresh, and the struggles for the introduction of similar bills, for Ireland, caused those incisions to bleed again. On public questions the King prudently reserved his individual opinion until the period of assent, or moment of rejection, arrived, when he always expressed himself openly, explicitly, and fearlessly. Neither the King, nor his ministers, had foreseen the calamities that now befell the Irish protestant church; and, so deeply did his Majesty feel the misfortune of the suffering clergy of that part of his kingdom, that his name appeared, immediately, at the head of the subscription for their relief, prefixed to the munificent donation of £500. His gracious example was so successfully held up for imitation, that, in a very few months, the largest voluntary public subscription ever raised in England, was collected, for the relief of the Irish clergy, in the year 1836. It must not be imagined, notwithstanding the specious arguments advanced for the purpose, that the protestant religion was declining, the number of its members diminishing, or their wants, necessities, or public religious accommodations unattended to. Such was not—is not the case. His Majesty had previously directed that

subscriptions, for the building and enlarging of churches, should be collected in every parish, through the influential and proper medium of the parochial clergy. A society for increasing the number of churches and chapels, with vast pecuniary resources, and under the patronage of the Archbishop of Canterbury, held annual meetings on the 18th of May; and, from their reports it appeared, that the society supplied the additional accommodation annually of 30,000 seats in protestant places of worship, which was still found to be unequal to the wants of that religious community. This society, although in connection with district associations, was yet unconnected with several that possessed and applied large sums for the same inestimable object.

In addition to the distinct manifestation of attachment to the established church, personally, by William IV., in his benevolent aid of the suffering Irish clergy, he replied to the Bishop of London's application for assistance, in providing church accommodation within the metropolis, by the munificent donation of £1000. Queen Adelaide added £300, and, on the first meeting of the managers of the fund, at London House, the subscriptions were declared to reach the sum of £50,000.

It was urged also at this period, that the Roman Catholic religion had obtained a more than usual average increase to its votaries in England. Forty years before, there were but thirty Catholic chapels in Great Britain; in 1835 the number had increased to 510; while in Dover, and Kidderminster, Protestant churches had actually been converted into places for Roman Catholic worship, and 62 Roman Catholic colleges were permanently established in England. The increase of that religion was equally surprising in Scotland, where 30,000 Roman Catholic families were found in one city only, (Glasgow,) where, thirty years before, that

religion was little known. Before any deduction can be made from these statements, the simultaneous increase of population, more particularly in manufacturing towns, must be carefully ascertained.

It has been stated that King William used reserve in the expression of his opinions, until the time most proper for so doing, but that then he put the nation, at once, in possession of his ultimatum. On the question of the suppression of Orange societies and lodges, the house, from the unexampled state of excitation, into which the debate on this question had thrown the members, adopted the resolution of addressing his Majesty; from whom they received this gracious, but resolute answer, "that it was his firm determination to discourage all such societies in his dominions; and that he relied, with confidence, on the fidelity of his loyal subjects to support him in this determination." This reply, so peremptory in its tone, was not to be misunderstood; and the next day, the Duke of Cumberland, afterwards King of Hanover, in his place in the House of Lords, expressed himself to the following effect, in a discussion relative to Orange lodges, "though he was as convinced as ever of the purity of the principles of Orange societies, he was not desirous of pursuing or countenancing any proceedings that might appear like resistance to the government; and that, therefore, in consequence of the resolution adopted by the other house of parliament, he had, in conjunction with several noble friends, taken steps, advising the immediate dissolution of all Orange societies in Great Britain, Ireland, and the colonies."

In other parliamentary or political measures,—bills for the regulation of marriages, births, and deaths, since become the law; Irish and English tithe bills; various enactments for the amelioration of our code of laws; reduction of the tax on newspapers—and many others, some of which were

rejected, others adopted—the King, individually, took no particular side, view, or party, to the close of the session, which occurred on the 22d day of August. On that occasion his Majesty again, in person, met his faithful houses of parliament. He spoke to them of the continuance of the sanguinary war of succession still raging in Spain; and mentioned that he had afforded, to the Queen of that distracted country, the co-operation of a part of his naval force; he congratulated the nation upon the success that attended his mediatorial efforts, between France and the United States of America; and concluded with some of the customary forms, which belong peculiarly to the speeches of our monarchs from the throne.

During the recess, the church party employed themselves in preparing for a spirited, determined, and more effectual resistance of the liberals than they had hitherto been able to make. From several dioceses, petitions were sent up to parliament, deprecating the desecration of church property by its application to lay institutions, and declaring parliament to be incompetent to make such alienation. Indeed, the clergy declared loudly against the government system of education introduced recently into Ireland. Meetings of exemplary and zealous pastors were called, when dispassionate reasons were urged against the system, and on one occasion the Archbishop of Armagh presided. In addition to this resolute opposition to the ecclesiastical legislation of the Whig government, the clergy and protestant laity persevered, laudably, in the erection of churches and chapels, from funds voluntarily subscribed, and which amounted to an amazing sum. The ancient gothic churches are pointed to, as lasting and convincing evidence of the piety, zeal, and devotion of our Catholic forefathers; but their Protestant descendants built more temples to God in

365 days, and with funds not exacted by threats that shook our hopes of happiness here and hereafter, than the most devoted earlier ages raised in as many years.

The weather, towards the close of 1836, assumed an unusual character; and at one period, the 29th of November, a hurricane visited England, the effects of which will not soon be forgotten. The metropolis, in common with other parts of the kingdom, experienced the effects of this awful visitation: stacks of chimneys were overthrown, the roofs of houses, in some instances, carried away some distance from the walls that had but just before sustained them. Brownlow House, in Belgrave-square, a spacious mansion, was completely unroofed, and the lead on several large buildings rolled up as accurately into a volume, as if accomplished by the hand of the most experienced plumber. The shipping in the river broke away from their moorings, and, running foul of each other, endangered life, and contributed to the extensive waste and destruction of property; upwards of 200 Thames boats were either sunk or destroyed; 200 forest trees were up-rooted, or broken across, in the royal parks—Kensington, Hyde Park, and St. James's; and more than 32 sufferers, from accidents, caused by the tremendous storm, were admitted into the principal hospitals. The accounts from the country were equally distressing; the new church, and some of the public buildings at Plymouth, were unroofed; many dwelling-houses in the city of Exeter sustained very serious injury; and, at Brighton, the damage, sustained by the chain-pier, was such as could not be repaired in less than several months. This frightful visitation was not more remarkable for its destructive character than for the velocity with which it sped from object to object, in search of some new victim. The most violent movement of the hurricane was felt, in Cornwall, at twenty minutes after

8 o'clock A.M., and in the metropolis at twenty minutes past ten, from which it follows that its actual velocity may be estimated at 100 miles per hour precisely.

It might naturally have been imagined that a power so resistless had driven before it, in its rapid progress, all the lingering impurities of our dense atmosphere, and that a milder and more salubrious season would probably attend the late unusual, and in some respects calamitous visitation; but this conclusion proved far from the truth. On the Christmas-night succeeding the hurricane, the heaviest fall of snow ever remembered in these islands, occurred. It fell very generally over the surface of England, but visited the northern countries before it reached the metropolis. In the southern countries, Devonshire and Cornwall, where the inhabitants are strangers to deep snow, firm ice, or continued frigidity, the snow was so deep, that all travelling and coach communication was completely stopped, the drifts of snow attaining in some places a height of forty feet; and when the ways were opened, which was accomplished at great labour and expense, the coachmen and guards of the mails stated that they could, with difficulty, endure the intensity of the cold, and requested additional relief, or, that punctuality in their duties might be dispensed with, until a change of weather took place. An event more familiar to the inhabitants of an alpine region occurred at Lewes, in Sussex, where a tremendous avalanche fell, near the Cliff, and overwhelmed seven houses, with many of their luckless inmates: several were dug out alive, but eight unhappily perished beneath the incumbent weight.

This extraordinary, and, in the British isles, unnatural season of storm and snow, preceded an epidemic disease called the influenza, which was more fatal in London than the cholera. It was accompanied with inflammation of the

throat and lungs, violent spasmodic attacks, sickness, headache, or stupor. The clerks in the public offices, invalids at Greenwich, police and military, were severely and fatally attacked by this insidious disease. Its most numerous and certain victims were found amongst the aged, and those who laboured under any pulmonary affection; and the return of the number that died of influenza in the work-houses exceeds any that has been made, in an equal space of time, for the last forty years.

On the 4th of November, Charles X., ex-king of France, better known to the English nation, perhaps, as Comte d'Artois, died an exile at Goritz in Illyria, having attained the good old age of eighty years. This prince, although he passed the greater or the best portion of his life in exile, never profited sufficiently by his intercourse with strangers, so as to acquire the tact of making himself popular. In early life he was dissipated, heedless, and extravagant; at a more advanced period he added to his imprudence a degree of hauteur that was unbecoming his relative position to the British and other nations amongst whom he found an asylum. He left no enviable popularity behind him, when he ceased to dwell amongst the Scots at the palace of Holyrood; and his residence at Hartwell House, Buckinghamshire, was less favourable to his character, which lost considerably by the contrast with that of his excellent and amiable brother's, who was his associate at that place.

The fall of this prince from the eminence of the throne of France to the humble position of a pensioner and exile, is solely attributable to bigotry and superstition: his submission to priestly influence bedimmed his faculties, clouded his judgment, and led to the catastrophe which probably few save legitimate monarchs, and the little circle of friends

living around him from day to day, ever seriously regretted. Between the biographies of the late Charles X. of France, and James II. of England, there exist very many remarkable and striking coincidences:—both passed their youth in exile; both returned to their countries without being rendered more wise or more cautious by the lessons of adversity; both endeavoured to govern on principles which events had rendered impracticable; and the downfall and exile of each was the consequence: both professed to abdicate their thrones, in favour of the representatives of their respective lines, but the nominees in both cases were rejected, while the abdications were acknowledged and acted upon; both princes supported their years of exile with fortitude and resignation, and left behind them pretenders to their forfeited thrones: in both cases also, princes of their own blood succeeded them. It is not the least extraordinary of these coincidences, that the Bourbons and Stuarts having succeeded to abortive democracies and military despotisms, were represented, on their return, by princes of despotic and lazy habits—the licentious Charles, and the gourmand Louis; and yet both were fortunate enough to die quietly in their beds.

Charles X. having led a very dissipated early life, passed his latter years in acts of superstitious mortification, under the direction of his reverend confessor. He constantly wore sack-cloth next his skin, fasted much, and prayed several times in the course of each day; he sometimes imposed upon himself, as a penance for some hasty expression, a silence of several hours, during the remainder of the day or night. It is a remarkable circumstance, also, connected with the history of this prince, that, of the whole Capetian race, a line of thirty-five sovereigns, Charles X. was the only one that attained the age of eighty years. The

reception of the intelligence of his death, at Paris, was respectful to the memory of the deceased exile, and highly creditable to the national character of the French people. In London a service for the dead was performed at the French chapel, on the 24th of November; the interior was hung with black cloth, to which escutcheons of the Bourbon family were attached. A temporary cenotaph was erected in the centre of the church, adorned with a fac-simile of the Bourbon crown. King William IV. seldom forgot an old friend, particularly one who had been a victim of adversity, and, although not devotedly attached to etiquette, nor reared a courtier, he commanded that the English court should appear in suitable mourning for ten days, from the 12th day of December. The kindly feelings of the King of England had just been drawn upon by the death of the exiled King of the French, and sufficiently evidenced towards that prince, as well as to the people he once attempted to govern, when an event occurred, which all but demanded a repetition of public mourning. The lately elected monarch of the French, Louis Philippe, who had escaped the murderous design of Fieschi, a second time experienced the bountiful protection of the Great Ruler of events, in avoiding the aim of an assassin, named Meunier: the villain fired into the king's carriage; his ball broke the glass, and glanced off altogether, but some of the splinters struck, and slightly wounded one of the young princes, who accompanied their royal father to the opening of the chamber.

If the government of William IV. fails, in the least point, in its full and entire claim to the character of "a peaceful reign," it is to political differences alone, that that source of regret is imputable. In his reign the distinction of *Whig* and *Tory* was certainly revived, and the gulf that yawned between them expanded farther and farther, by the introduc-

tion of parliamentary reform, and interference of the ministry with church property and government. But King William also lived to see that vital question "reform of parliament" brought to a conclusion,—the name of Tory, in consequence, exchanged for that of Conservative, and the party called Whigs split into two, for the more valuable moiety of which no appropriate epithet has yet been found. The Conservatives being now transferred to the opposition benches, were found, in their respective districts, paying all those courtesies to the constituency, which, during uninterrupted possession of power, are often unwisely neglected. In one instance a very decided re-action was demonstrated by the election of Sir Robert Peel to the Lord Rectorate of Glasgow, and the presence and eloquence of that accomplished statesman ripened the opening feeling of Conservatism, amongst the Caledonians, into maturity. The inaugural address delivered on the occasion, by this very elegant scholar, was singularly happy, displaying a pure classical taste, an extraordinary degree of research, and a most masterly and beautiful arrangement. It was printed, first at the expense of his auditors, but subsequently, and immediately, at many active publishers' own risk. The citizens of Glasgow caught the torch that was lighted at the altar of learning in their city, and, raising it aloft, illumined "the gathering" of 3500 of their fellow citizens, who had assembled to welcome their Lord Rector at a public dinner, and signify, by their number, their approval of his political sentiments. In the address, which Sir Robert Peel delivered on this memorable occasion, "he called on all who heard him to adhere to the principles on which reform was advocated, and to combine for the defence of the institutions of the country. He wished to see the machine of government in the discharge of its proper duties—animating industry, encouraging production,

rewarding toil, purifying wherever there was stagnation or abuse : but he entertained a well-founded objection to a perpetual intermeddling with its vital functions, by persons who knew nothing of the structure of that mechanism which they presumed to alter and improve. He had long fought the good fight of Conservatism, but he never despaired, he never doubted that the old, the ancient heart of England, and of Scotland, would rally round the institutions of their common country. He looked abroad from the spot on which he then stood, to the moral influence of that opinion which constituted “the chief defence of nations,” he looked to it for the maintenance of that system of government which protected the rich from spoliation, and the poor from oppression—he looked for that spirit that would range itself under no tawdry banners of revolution, but unfurl and rally round ‘the flag which braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze.’ Yes, he entertained no shadow of doubt that it would continue to float in triumph, and that the constitution, tried as it had been in the storms of adversity, would come forth purified and fortified in the rooted convictions, the feelings, the affections of a religious, a moral, and a patriotic people.”

The reign of King William was now drawing more nearly to a close, than any human caution suspected, or mortal foresight was enabled to predict. The days of the Royal individual were numbered, and their amount but now as nothing ; soon, and for the last time, he was to call his faithful parliament together, to receive the only other paternal admonition, which the King and Ruler of all thrones appointed him to bequeath to his admiring and truly loyal people ; nor had he the consolation of opening the session, in person, as he had hitherto done, the duty this time being performed by commission.

The royal address lost no inconsiderable part of its interest, by the absence of the benevolent monarch, who always seemed to feel the most unmitigated happiness in meeting his parliament, and, through them, his loyal people. However, some subjects of national importance were mentioned; amongst them, the anarchy and civil war that still prevailed in Spain. The condition of our provinces of Lower Canada was very briefly alluded to :—the attention of both houses was called, in an especial manner, to the state of Ireland, to the municipal corporation bill, the tithe bill, and a legal provision for the poor, all referring to that part of the united kingdom. Here, it will be perceived, the Sovereign proposed, for the consideration of parliament, measures of high importance, and for which he demanded their immediate attention; but, neither King William, nor the parliament to which these commands were addressed, remained long enough in existence to execute them.

On the 7th of February Lord John Russell brought forward the ministerial measure to remedy the abuses, and provide for the reform, of the municipal corporations of Ireland. It was precisely similar, in principle, to that of last session, which was rejected by the Commons in consequence of the numerous amendments introduced by the peers. After an animated discussion of two nights, leave was given to bring in the bill. The debates on this bill were frequent, and abundantly angry. Lord Stanley contended, that the struggle which this bill occasioned was virtually one for Catholic or Protestant ascendancy, and, that though the ministers said they desired to maintain the Protestant establishment, their actions spoke a contrary language. He would resist a measure that would only sanction tyrannous monopoly. “If he saw the revenues of the Irish church placed in a state of perfect safety, he was not prepared to say, that his opinions on the subject of

municipal reform might not undergo some modification." Mr. Frederick Shaw and Sir Robert Peel, in their opposition to the bill, took the same view of the question as Lord Stanley had done ; but their opposition was abortive, and the third reading of the bill was carried, on the 11th of April, by a majority of fifty-five.

The Irish municipal bill, being advanced into the upper house, was there contested with as much obstinacy as it had encountered from the leading oppositionists amongst the Commons. The Duke of Wellington proposed, that its consideration should be postponed to the 9th of June, that their lordships might see how ministers meant to legislate for Ireland. This was opposed by Lord Melbourne, with all his ability and influence ; a combination which, however powerful, proved totally unequal to the influence and authority of the Duke, and, on a division, his Grace's amendment was carried by a majority of seventy-seven. On the 9th of June the premier again brought the municipal bill before their lordships, when he was opposed by Lord Lyndhurst, who expressed his desire to see the Irish church bill sent up by the Commons, previously to their lordships coming to a final decision on the bill then before him. On a division there appeared for Lord Lyndhurst's amendment 205, for going into committee only 119 ; leaving the minister a second time in a minority on the question. The bill was then postponed to the 3d of July, when its fate and fortune became part of the history of a new reign.

The Irish poor law act was brought forward in the month of May, but resisted by the Conservatives, on grounds precisely similar to those on which they rested their opposition to the municipal reform bill. The opposition of the Conservative party, generally, throughout the kingdom, was very much increased and strengthened by a

motion, which was submitted to the House of Commons, on the 22d of May, by Mr. A. Johnson, in words to the following effect: "That it is the opinion of the house that funds may be derived from an improved management of church lands, and that the funds should be applied to religious instruction within the established church, when the same may be found deficient in proportion to the existing population." This amendment sounded like a tocsin throughout the island. Sir Francis Burdett was amongst the first to resist this government proposition, declaring his conviction, that ministers were inimical to the church establishment, and the constitution of the country. He adverted to the sacrifices himself had made, during his life, to promote the public cause, and that to the latest moment of his existence, he would never abandon that course. Sir Robert Peel added the weight of his eloquence to that of Sir Francis, expressing his opinion, that such an appropriation of the funds so derived would be destructive of the church, as a state establishment. The ministers, however, carried their amendment by a majority of five.

While political animosities were acquiring renewed strength, and a more violent struggle of parties for political power was approaching, the conduct of the King and Queen of England was beyond all praise. His Majesty moved in the social round, without appearing conscious that politics could excite animosity. That, as the public happiness was the end which both Whig and Tory aimed at, they must necessarily agree on the vital point, and disagree only as physicians, upon discovering the best and most efficacious remedies. He thought, and justly too, that to every legislator, statesman, or individual of title, or unbounded wealth, belonged two characters, in some degree distinct—the one public, the other private. In his former capacity he should know no rancour or animosity, if his views were

upright; in his private life he should, in proportion to his elevated position, be superior to the meanness of personal dislikes; he himself, also, being highly favoured amongst men. At King William's court were met men of all parties in the state; integrity of character was the chief recommendation to a share in that English hospitality which distinguished his crowded banquets; and his royal Consort herself, on behalf of the ladies of England, secured public respect, by protecting them from the intrusion even of doubtful morality.

The festivities of the court received a shock, and their splendour was for a short time dimmed, in the spring of 1837, by the decease of a dethroned monarch, the ex-king of Sweden, and from the news of a second death, that of the Duchess-dowager of Saxe-Coburg Meiningen, mother of her Majesty, the present Queen Dowager of England. This once illustrious and amiable personage was intimately acquainted with the nobility of England, and had resided for some time with her august daughter at Bushy Park. Shortly after her visit to England, her health became so impaired, and her decay so obvious, that her affectionate daughter hastened from the palace of her royal consort to the sorrowing home of her mother, to take a last farewell of one, to whom she had ever been bound by the strongest, the closest ties of love and duty. The visit of Queen Adelaide to the bedside of her venerable parent was known, at the period, in England, and fully appreciated by a people who estimate so highly domestic happiness; but the proper spirit, delicacy, and feeling of the public journals of Britain, prohibited the least notice or interference in the domestic calamities of the illustrious house from which the Queen consort was descended.

Death had done much destruction amongst crowned heads, earthly potentates, and even those whom the fates

had placed on lower elevations, and whose fall, therefore, was heard at lesser distances, during the brief reign of our single-minded monarch. He had himself reached to a good old age, had counted many years, and lived to see a numerous offspring all grown up to the fulness of human maturity. But length of life is sometimes not the most blessed boon conferred upon mortality. Cæsar, Hannibal, Napoleon—all lived too long; and longevity caused Nestor to witness the burning beard of his beloved Antilochus. King William did not escape the penalties of lengthened years, for he lived to lament the death of a favourite daughter, whose ashes were consigned to the tomb but two short months before his own.

The interesting person whose premature decease the King had cause to mourn over, was his late Majesty's eldest daughter by Mrs. Jordan: she had been married, in the presence of the Dukes of York and Sussex, to Philip Charles Sidney, Esq., only son of Sir John Shelley Sidney, who was created Baron de Lisle and Dudley in the year 1835. This lamented lady was appointed housekeeper of Kensington Palace, by the King's warrant, in 1831, where she continued to reside until her decease in 1837. She is said to have possessed mental acquirements of a very high order, to have acted as amanuensis to her royal father almost constantly, and, independent of the parental love which she is believed to have possessed, beyond the lot even of her brothers and sisters, she was universally esteemed for her many amiable qualities in the extended circle of which she formed the centre. The remains of Lady de Lisle were removed, for interment, from Kensington Palace to Penshurst, in Kent, where her noble husband's ancestors lie entombed, and where the coffin was laid, in the family vault of the Sidneys, bearing an inscription, which informs

the reader that she was the daughter of William IV. of England.

On the 27th of March, in the same year, Mrs. Fitzherbert, whose name is so closely associated with the early biography of George IV., passed from this life after having attained the age of 80 years. During her life, of singleness, (perhaps, more properly speaking, of widowhood,) she continued to receive the highest tribute of respect and esteem from the nobility and gentry who visited Brighton, the place of her residence for some years previous to her decease. From the royal family, more particularly, she received the most unequivocal demonstrations of affectionate attachment, increased by the grateful recollection they entertained that her influence, and good offices, had ever been exerted to promote concord and affection between the Prince of Wales and his family. The respect shown by the late King, on his accession to the throne, marked those feelings towards her in the most flattering manner; and the unceasing attachment and attention of all branches of the royal family, until the close of her existence, showed how deep a sense they entertained of her intrinsic worth. Her remains were deposited in the Roman Catholic chapel at Brighton.

Having seen so many fall around him—partners—associates—actors, in the great drama of public life, the approach of an implacable invisible king, warned our late benevolent Sovereign, that a limit (alas, very brief!) was affixed to the continuance of the sceptre in his royal hand. That crown and sceptre were soon to fall, and all his earthly pageantry to pass away along with them.

About four weeks previous to his death, King William was affected with a cough, difficulty of breathing, and a languid state of the circulation. As the disease advanced, the pulse became scarcely perceptible at the wrist, and the

phenomena, collectively, indicated organic disease of the heart, of a nature never likely to be essentially mitigated by any remedies. Those who were acquainted with his Majesty's condition, at once anticipated the fatal result. It was ascertained on the *post-mortem* examination, that this opinion of the late King's medical advisers was minutely correct; the heart was found to be enlarged, many of the adjoining passages were ossified, and twelve or fourteen ounces of serous fluid were deposited in the right cavity of the chest. To those who were witnesses of the acute sufferings of the royal patient at the early period of his complaint, it was matter of astonishment that he did not sink under them sooner. But he was blest with an excellent constitution by nature, and, in spite of the manifold temptations of his rank and station, was not a wanton waster of it. Those, then, who wondered that he fell not sooner, have neglected to admit into their calculation, how far temperance, abstinence, and sobriety, conduce to the formation of the "*mens sana in corpore sano*," and to the consequent prolongation of the ordinary functions of life. His late Majesty was sensible of all that passed around, to the last moment of his existence; and expressed the most heartfelt satisfaction at the constant, and unremitting attentions, which he received from the different members of his family. His Queen, and none but those who have long lain upon the bed of sickness know how to appreciate the value and tenderness of female sympathy in acute bodily suffering, set an example to her sex of patient assiduity, and attention to her illustrious consort, which the ladies of England will do well to imitate, but may strive in vain to surpass. For twelve successive days Queen Adelaide had never changed her dress, or rather never undressed, or reclined upon her couch for longer than a few hours at a time.

Such an affectionate discharge of conjugal duties renders envy silent and detraction dumb. The constant practice of those domestic virtues which have stamped the royal name of Adelaide with glory, constitute the worth, the pride, the ornament of social life.

It will be a matter of some consolation to those who were attached to King William's person, and still regard his memory, to be informed, that at no period of his life had his mind been more serene, or his intellect more unclouded, than during the continuance of that illness that terminated in his dissolution. There never was the least difficulty in making him aware of any fact which it was necessary should be communicated to him. The Archbishop of Canterbury being fully convinced of the calm, resigned, complacent state of the King's mind, as well as of his entire capability of appreciating the value, or of comprehending the danger of receiving it unworthily, administered the holy sacrament to his late Majesty the day preceding his decease: a full, sufficient evidence of the fact, that up to that instant the intellect of King William had suffered neither alienation, nor decay. During his waking moments, which were increased in number by the quick returns of bodily pain, his Queen and his family were seldom absent from his side; and when they were, it appeared that there was something which his eyes desired to see, but in vain. On the Monday before his death, so clear were his intellects, that, in a moment of freedom from suffering, he called for Sir Herbert Taylor to bring him his box of letters, and being informed that there was no box for him to open, he replied, "Oh, I forgot—this is Monday." A more true-hearted Englishman never adorned the throne of Britain than our late Sailor-King; the national glory to him was dearer than life, and its maintenance retained a place in his memory while memory itself

retained its power. At one of the accustomed visits of his physicians, during the first week of his bodily affliction, being aware of his advanced age, and the nature of the malady with which he was afflicted, he addressed one of his attendants in the following way: "Doctor, I know I am going, but I should like to see another anniversary of the battle of Waterloo; try if you cannot tinker me up to last out that day." Providence granted his request, so innocently offered, and King William survived the recurrence of a day as imperishable as any event can be in the records of time, and he was fully alive to all its ennobling national reminiscences. On Sunday, when the banner by which the Duke of Wellington holds Strathfieldsaye, was presented, the King seemed much affected, and said, "God bless the Duke of Wellington: may he live long to enjoy it!" He then turned to Dr. Chambers, and said, "If you don't keep me alive for another day, the Duke will not be able to hold his annual festival in celebration of the battle of Waterloo."

Such anecdotes indicate the self-possession of the dying monarch, and establish the certainty of his being fully capable of confessing the faith of Christ to the venerable minister, who waited by him constantly, and at his special desire. The manner in which the last rites of the church were received, by the late King, was related, at a meeting of the Church-Fund Society, by his grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, shortly after the royal demise. "It was," said the prelate, "not many days since he had attended on his late Sovereign, during the few closing days of his existence—and it was a truly edifying lesson to witness the patience with which he endured sufferings the most oppressive—his thankfulness to the Almighty for any alleviations under the most painful disorders—his sense of

every attention paid to him—the absence of all expressions of impatience—his regard to the discharge of every public duty to the utmost of his power—his attention to every paper that was brought him—the serious state of his mind, and his devotion to his religious duties preparatory to his departure for that happy world, whither he hoped he had been called. Three different times (said his grace) was I summoned to his presence the day before his dissolution. He received the sacrament first; on my second summons, I read the church service to him; and the third time I attended, the oppression under which he laboured prevented him from joining actually in the service, though he appeared sensible of the consolations which I read to him out of our religious service. For three weeks prior to his dissolution, the Queen sat by his bed-side, performing for him every office which a sick man could require, and depriving herself of all manner of rest and refection: she underwent labours which I thought no ordinary woman could endure; no language can do justice to her meekness, and to the calmness of mind which she sought to preserve before the King, while sorrow was preying on her heart: such constancy of affection, I think, was one of the most interesting spectacles that could be presented to a mind desiring to be gratified with the sight of human excellence.”

At twenty minutes past two o'clock A. M., on the 20th of June 1837, William IV. exchanged his mortal and transitory crown, for, we hope, an immortal and everlasting one. The transition from a quiet slumber into the sleep of death, was easy, and unattended with any apparent effort or struggle; his arm rested upon the Queen's shoulder, and his faithful partner's hands supported his breast—a position which the Queen had maintained for upwards of an hour previous to her fatal loss, and, indeed, during all the King's

moments of repose, for the last fortnight of his painful illness.

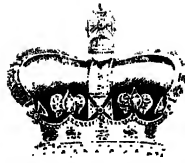
About two hours before his Majesty's decease, it was thought advisable to remove him from one chamber to another, in the expectation that change of air might assist respiration. The room into which he was carried, happened, most accidentally, to be the same in which George IV. expired, and it was in this chamber of death that William IV. the patriot, liberal, Sailor-King, bade farewell to all his worldly greatness.

By a will, which appears to have been drawn not long before his decease, King William IV. bequeathed £2000 to each of his natural children. He had been in the uniform habit of dividing equally amongst them his annual savings, and, by virtue of a policy of assurance on his life, they became entitled to the interest of a further sum of £40,000: the executors are Sir Herbert Taylor, Sir Hugh Wheatley, and Colonel Wood.

In analyzing the character of the late King, while many censurable weaknesses, many youthful indiscretions, and a few, very few, grave offences against the moral code of his nation, may be laid to his charge, a host of palliating and redeeming circumstances can be pleaded in favour of his memory. When a boy, he exhibited qualities that endeared him to every one, and at the same time displayed others that called for the exercise of forbearance in the same individuals. He was impatient, impetuous, violent, irascible, and sometimes overbearing, yet there was a rough kind of generosity about him, that obtained forgiveness for many of his failings. His bursts of passion might have offended—his own sorrow for his excesses, changed the feeling into forgiveness. He had, unfortunately, never enjoyed the benefit of a suitable

education. To books, in his youthful days, he manifested no partiality : his disposition was too volatile, his habits too unsteady for the pursuits of literature. In this uneducated state, at much too early an age, he was turned adrift upon the ocean. This loss was irreparable ; yet his natural powers were confessedly great ; and, had he been placed under proper instructors, armed with sufficient power of restraint, until his mind was habituated to literature, there is much reason to believe, that as he reigned with honour, so would he have added still greater dignity to the crown he wore at the closing years of his life.

The profession, to which his late Majesty was attached early in life, seemed to have tinged his character throughout with its proverbial candour, bluntness, and integrity. He will be remembered in future times by the endearing title of the *Sailor King*. The distinguished officers who flourished in that period, and the circumstances in which the country was then placed, which gave such a preponderance to the navy, had their natural effect in stimulating the impulse that led to the choice of his Majesty's position. But a variety of influences and accidents prevented him from occupying that prominent place in his profession, to which, it is well known, his own ambition always pointed. Notwithstanding, however, the obstructions that interrupted his progress to distinction, in the way that would have been most grateful to his own feelings, he never ceased to regard the service with ardour, and retained, even upon the throne, his original enthusiasm in reference to its interests. The incidents of a life, which was past for the most part in retirement, afford few points upon which biography can dwell at length ; but its unostentatious quietude suggests more eloquently than the most brilliant



THE QUEEN'S PORTRAIT BY THE ARTIST J. M. W. TURNER

Victoria R.

acts, the superiority of his Majesty's nature to the tinsel advantages of mere birth. While other members of the royal family lived in culpable profusion, his Majesty, content with a restricted income, and the serene pleasures of domestic happiness, was rarely heard of in public. He had no taste for the pageantries of a court ; he loved tranquil pursuits ; he removed voluntarily from the flattering and tempting splendours that were within his reach, and it is to the honour of his name that he was uncorrupted by the associations to which his rank exposed him. Called from his retreat to assume the sceptre, a grateful nation marked its profound respect for his memory, its sense of the mildness and justice of his sway. The noblest panegyric which can be pronounced upon a monarch has already been paid to WILLIAM IV.—the united testimony of all parties to his virtues. Even faction has not cast a single reproach upon his name—abashed by the manly simplicity of his life, its silence is his epitaph.

This our opinion, deliberately formed, finds an indisputable corroboration and support in the concurring applause of the highest and most eminent individuals in the nation, the heads, and leaders of the two opposing political parties, at the moment of the late King's decease.

On the 22d of June, after the King of Hanover (recently Duke of Cumberland) had taken the oaths and his seat, the Lord Chancellor read the following Message from her Majesty, Victoria the First.

QUEEN'S MESSAGE.

“ The Queen entertains the fullest confidence that the House
 “ of Lords participates in the deep affliction her Majesty feels
 “ at the death of the late King, whose constant desire to pro-
 “ mote the interest, maintain the liberties, and improve the laws
 “ and institutions of the country, will insure for his name and

‘ memory the dutiful and affectionate respect of all her Majesty’s subjects. The present state of the public business, and the period of the session, when considered in connection with the law which imposes on her Majesty the duty of summoning a new Parliament within a limited time, renders it inexpedient to recommend to the House any new measures for its adoption, with the exception of such as may be necessary for carrying on the public business, from the close of the present till the meeting of the new Parliament.”

VISCOUNT MELBOURNE said, that in moving an Address to the Queen, in reply to her most gracious Message, it would, of course, be his anxious wish to avoid any topic which could create discussion. He was sure that all their lordships felt keenly the loss the kingdom had sustained, in the calamity which deprived them of a master whose eminent qualities as a Monarch they could all appreciate. His late Majesty had been educated in that profession which was the peculiar pride of the country; and he (Lord M.) had heard from those who had the opportunities of judging, that he was an able and efficient officer. After he had left that service, the manner in which he performed his duties as a legislator, was known to them all; and when he ascended the throne, his knowledge of our foreign relations, and his experience at home, rendered him the parent of his people. In the intercourse which he (Lord M.) necessarily had with him, he could say, that, as a just man, as a man of integrity, he knew none to excel him. His Majesty’s reign had not been a protracted one. It was not to be expected, considering the late period at which he ascended the throne, that it should be so. But, he was cut off earlier than might have been anticipated, by a disease beyond the reach of art. But although his reign had not been long, it had, nevertheless, been marked by important events, and by important measures, on which there was naturally a great difference of opinion, but in respect to which he would not say anything on the present occasion; but this much he would state, that during this course of events, and upon every occasion, the late King had been actuated by a sincere desire for the good of his people, the tranquillity of the country, and the advantage of its most valuable interests. “Although I have not spoken with eloquence,” said the noble lord, “I have spoken with truth—I have said no more than I feel—I have said no more than what is just.”—Lord M. then added an eloquent eulogy on the patient assiduity and affectionate attention of the Queen Dowager to his late Majesty, and moved an address to her Majesty, which was immediately agreed to.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON said, he also had been called upon to serve his late Majesty in the highest office in which a subject could be placed, and at more than one period, and on all these occasions, the King exhibited a firmness, candour, justice, and a spirit of conciliation such as never Sovereign exhibited in a situation in which, perhaps, no Sovereign was ever before placed. Formerly, when employed in a high situation, he had unfortunately found it his duty to oppose himself to the late King, and to take measures which led to the resignation by his Majesty, then Duke of Clarence, of his exalted office (Lord High Admiral.) "So far, however, from this circumstance producing any coldness when his Majesty came to the throne, from that time forward he treated me with every mark of favour, confidence, and personal distinction." Under these circumstances, he considered himself bound, not only by duty, but by a sincere feeling of gratitude towards his late Majesty, to do everything he could to relieve him from the difficulties in which he (the duke) found him placed.

EARL GREY declared, that he could not reconcile it with his duty to the late King, or to himself, to remain silent. He approved of the manner in which the message had been introduced, and the absence of any topic that would disturb that equanimity so necessary at a time like this. He, too, had stood high in office under the late King, and could bear ample testimony to his possession of those eminent qualities which had been so ably described by his noble friend, and by the noble duke opposite; for a man more devoted to the interests of his subjects, or who better understood what conduced most to those interests—one more patient in the consideration of every circumstance connected with them, or in discharge of his duty on every occasion, never existed—and if ever there was a Sovereign entitled to the character, he might truly be styled "a patriot King." In addition to his other qualities of diligence, assiduity, and attention, by which he was so eminently distinguished—his patience in investigating every subject—the knowledge he had acquired of the principles of the constitution, and the interests of the country, were only equalled by the kind condescension with which he listened to objections, to the opinions which he himself had previously conceived, and his anxious desire to decide what was best for the country over which he ruled. He had no personal resentments, and appeared at all times anxious to conceal any difference between the King and those by whom he was surrounded. He was proud to be able to say, that immediately before the commencement of his last fatal malady, he (Earl Grey) had received the most unequivocal testimony of his Majesty's confidence and good opinion.

LORD BROUGHAM having been long in the councils of the King, felt bound to express his cordial concurrence with his noble friends in their allusions to the amiable disposition, the inflexible love of justice, and the rare candour by which his Majesty had been distinguished.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL, in moving an address, in reply to the message of her most gracious Majesty, would follow the wise precedent of separating the messages of condolence and congratulation from those of public business. He felt assured that no argument was wanting to unite the House in expressions of regret and condolence for the death of the King—a Monarch firmly attached to the constitution, and who, through his short, but remarkable reign, made the good and the welfare of his subjects the rule of his conduct. He was called to the crown at a ripe age, after having known the business of life; after his service in a profession which was the pride and glory of the empire; after passing years at a distance from the crown, and unseduced by the flattery which surrounds the immediate claimants of power. He had taken part in the House of Peers, in all the busy scenes of his father and brother's reigns, and came to the crown prepared by experience to cope with the difficulties which then surrounded the country. "He held at times personal opinions, on which various parties, and even those who were his confidential servants, might differ from his Majesty himself. Whatever might have been his opinions, he in the first place treated with the utmost possible kindness those who had the honour to approach him; in the next place, he always stated his opinions to them frankly, fairly, and fully, never seeking by any means that were indirect, never seeking by any means that were not the most straightforward and the most manly, to impress on others the opinions which he himself entertained. I think that manly and firm conduct on the part of the Sovereign of this country must have attached to him all those who were in his service, whatever their political opinions might have been. Sir, in the course of the intercourse with his Majesty, I must say I believe that on many occasions the acquaintance he showed with the state of the country, with the transactions of this country, with the various classes of this country, and with particular individuals, was most remarkable and perfect. I believe that in the unfortunate state of his Majesty's health it would have been impossible to have preserved his life by any precautions; but the devotion which he showed at all times for the interests of the public ought now to endear his name and memory to all classes of his subjects. It was my wish, certainly, while this painful illness lasted, accompanied as it was with considerable suffering, not to press on his Majesty with any business which did not

require immediate attention; but all that which did require immediate attention received his immediate notice; and as an instance I may state, that on the last day of his life he signed one of those papers in which he exercised the royal prerogative of mercy. Five or six days before his death there happened to be one of these offices vacant—the military knights of Windsor—and his Majesty mentioned that a person had some time before applied. I was not aware of who it was; but when I looked at the papers, I found he was an officer who had been a considerable time in the army, and the occasion on which he was disabled was afterwards, when in the Yeomanry: when his Majesty's health had been drank, in firing off a gun, as was customary, the gun burst, by which accident the officer had both his arms shattered. His Majesty had recollected the circumstance, and, recollecting it even on a bed of sickness and severe suffering, the last appointment his Majesty made, was making a provision for him. Sir, I mention that, as one instance out of many—if I were to mention all the instances of his Majesty's kindness which were shown in the last days of his life, they are numerous, and would take much of the time of the House. Hence, he was easy, and calm and sensible, composed, comfortable, and religious, through the pain of his last illness.

SIR ROBERT PEEL said, that though his presence there was not unattended with pain, yet his pain would have been more acute, had he been brought to join in that mournful ceremony. Seven years ago it was his duty, standing in the position now occupied by the noble lord, to offer to the late King condolence and congratulation, wishes for a long reign, and hopes that his Majesty would secure and obtain the affections of his people. “Sir, the becoming reserve which secludes a Sovereign from ordinary intercourse with society, is not sufficient to conceal from his people the real nature and dispositions of him who rules over them; and I do believe it is the universal feeling of this country, that the reins of government were never committed to the hands of one who bore himself as a Sovereign with more affability, and yet with more true dignity—to one who was more compassionate for the sufferings of others, or to one whose nature was more utterly free from all selfishness. I do not believe that in the most exalted or in the most humble station, could be found a man, the whole pleasure of whose life consisted more in witnessing and promoting the happiness of others. I am confident it will be a great consolation to this country, and to an illustrious and now widowed Lady, to find that the House of Commons, sitting in the very heart of this great nation, entertains these sentiments with respect to her lamented husband. She has, during the whole course of his reign, shed a lustre upon it, by the performance of

all the relations of domestic virtue. In the last and closing scene of mortal suffering, she made unexampled efforts for the purpose of alleviating the sufferings of him, whose life was of such value to her, and to the people that were proud to acknowledge her as their Queen. Never had public servants a more kind and indulgent master. Never was there a man who, whatever might be his own political opinions, or with whatever frankness they might be stated, acted with such perfect fidelity towards those who were responsible for the advice they tendered."

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There are certain *post mortem* ceremonies of very ancient date, which continue to be performed on the earthly form and substance of our departed sovereigns. To us these forms appear as revolting in description, as disgusting in the performance—but time has consecrated and appropriated them, without any risk of exciting envy, to the mortal remains of monarchs only. After the process of embalming was accomplished, the body of the late King was laid out with the usual pageantry, in one of the halls of ceremony at Windsor Castle, and, on proper application, tickets of admission, to witness the lying in state, were granted to visitors. On the 13th of July the public funeral took place; the ceremonies of which were fully detailed in the proclamation issued from the earl marshal's office, from which the following is extracted:—

The remains of his late Most Sacred Majesty King William the Fourth, of blessed memory, lay in state in the Waterloo Chamber in Windsor Castle, attended by one of the lords of his late Majesty's bed-chamber, two grooms of his late Majesty's bed-chamber, two officers of arms, four of his late Majesty's gentlemen ushers, six of the honourable corps of gentlemen-at-arms, and eight of the yeomen of the guard, from Friday, the 7th instant, at ten o'clock in the morning, to the time of interment.

The state apartments were hung with black cloth, as also the great staircase and the communication leading therefrom, in which were stationed gentlemen-at-arms and yeomen of the guard.

The royal body, covered with a purple velvet pall, adorned with escutcheons of the royal arms, with the imperial crown of the United Kingdom, and the royal crown of Hanover laid thereon, was placed under a canopy of purple cloth, also having escutcheons; the royal standard was suspended under the canopy, and over the body, and the following banners, viz. :—The Union banner, the banner of St. George, the banner of Scotland, the banner of Ireland, the banner of Hanover, and the banner of Brunswick, supported by gentlemen-at-arms, were arranged on each side of the royal body.

At the head of the corps was seated the lord of the bed-chamber, between two grooms of the bed-chamber, as supporters; on each side of the body stood two gentlemen ushers of his late Majesty, and the officers of arms stood at the feet.

The public were admitted to the state apartment from ten to four o'clock on Friday the 7th of July, and from ten to three on the following day.

At eight o'clock on Saturday evening, the 8th, his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, as chief mourner, attended by the Dukes of Somerset and Portland, as supporters, took his seat at the head of the corpse, and at nine the procession, which had been previously formed in St. George's Hall, moved through the state apartment, and down the great staircase (which was lined by men of the Household brigade in equal proportions, every fourth man bearing a flambeau,) when the royal remains were conveyed along the platform (which was lined with men from the Grenadier Guards, the 2d battalion of the Coldstream Guards, and 1st battalion of Scots Fusileer Guards, every fourth man in like manner bearing a flambeau), to St. George's Chapel.

Upon the arrival of the procession at the south door, the trumpets and drums, and the Knight Marshal's men, filed off without the door.

At the entrance of the chapel, the royal body was received by the dean and prebendaries, attended by the choirs of Windsor and of the chapel royal (who fell in immediately before Norroy King of Arms,) and the procession moved down the south aisle and up the nave into the choir, where the royal body was placed on a platform under a canopy of purple velvet, having thereon escutcheons of the royal arms, and surmounted by an imperial crown, and the crowns and cushions were laid upon the coffin.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, chief mourner, sat on a chair at the head of the corpse, and the supporters stood on each side.

His Royal Highness Prince George of Cambridge was seated near the chief mourner, as were also the Duke of Saxe Meiningen,

the prince of Leiningen, and the Prince Ernest of Hesse Philipsthal.

The Lord Chamberlain of his Majesty's household stood at the feet of the corpse; and the supporters and assistant-supporters of the pall and of the canopy, arranged themselves on each side of the royal body.

The train-bearers and the peers, assistants to the chief mourner, arranged themselves behind his Royal Highness.

The Peers bearing the banners, were placed on each side near the altar.

During the service, the Knights of the Garter present occupied their respective stalls, with the exception of the Duke of Somerset, one of the supporters to the chief mourner, and those knights of the order who were supporters of the pall.

The Ministers of State and nobility, not in attendance near the royal body, bishops, privy councillors, judges, and law officers, were placed in the vacant and intermediate stalls, and in the lower seats on each side of the choir. The grooms of the bed-chamber, gentlemen ushers of the privy chamber, equerries, and others composing part of the procession, were arranged on each side of the altar. The gentlemen-at-arms took their station at the entrance, just without the choir.

The part of the service before the interment, and the anthem, being performed, the royal body was deposited in the vault, and the service being concluded, Sir William Woods, Clarenceux, Deputy to Garter Principal King of Arms, pronounced, near the grave, the styles of his late most sacred Majesty, of blessed memory, as follows :—

“ Thus it hath pleased Almighty God to take out of this transitory life, unto his divine mercy, the late most high, most mighty, and most excellent monarch William the Fourth, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and Sovereign of the Most Noble Order of the Garter; King of Hanover, and Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburgh.

“ Let us humbly beseech Almighty God to bless and preserve with long life, health, and honour, and all worldly happiness, the Most High, Most Mighty, and Most Excellent Princess, our Sovereign Lady, Victoria, now, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, and Sovereign of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

GOD SAVE QUEEN VICTORIA.”

After which, the Marquess Conyngham, lord chamberlain to his late Majesty, and the Duke of Argyll, his late Majesty's lord

steward, and the other officers of his late Majesty's household, broke their staves of office, and, kneeling near the grave, deposited the same in the royal vault; whereupon their Royal Highnesses the Princes of the Blood Royal, the foreign Princes, the great officers of state, nobility, and others, who composed the procession, retired from the chapel.

The knights of the several orders, present on the occasion, wore their respective collars, with white rosettes. In pursuance of her Majesty's order, the great officers of state, her Majesty's ministers, and the officers of the royal household, appeared in their state uniforms, with black waistcoats, breeches, stockings, and buckles, uniform swords with crape, and black feathers in their hats. The officers of the army and navy appeared in full-dress uniforms, with the mourning directed to be worn by them respectively at court. The bishops appeared in their rochets, and with full lawn sleeves; the peers, eldest sons of peers, privy councillors, and others, not included in the royal order, appeared in full-dress black.

Within the chapel, the procession, from the south door down the south aisle, was lined by men of the Foot Guards; and the centre of the chapel, to the entrance of the choir, by dismounted men of the Household brigade, every fourth man bearing a flambeau.

The bands were on the right of their respective battalions. The band of the Grenadier Guards commenced the Dead March in Saul on the procession arriving at the right flank of that regiment; the band of the Scots Fusileer Guards took up the Dead March in Saul, on the procession reaching its right flank; and, in like manner, the band of the Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards took it up, and continued it until the body was met by the clergy.

From four o'clock in the morning until nine in the evening, guns were fired at intervals of five minutes; and from nine o'clock until the conclusion of the ceremony, minute guns were fired.

Her Majesty, the Queen Dowager, was present in one of the royal closets, during the funeral service; and some members of the Fitzclarence family occupied a second.

If the character of his late Majesty be estimated by the standard of what a monarch ought to be, under a mixed form of government, it must be acknowledged that few of his royal predecessors approximated more nearly to such an imaginary type. Many circumstances in the life of

William IV. contributed to produce this result. In his youth he had been cast amongst the people, at a distance from the atmosphere of a court, and unencumbered and unprejudiced by its occasional antipopular sympathies : he was a scion of a profession from which bluntness, frankness, and sincerity are inseparable, and, in fact, constitute its conspicuous characteristics. His late Majesty was habitually, nay, constitutionally, open and candid, utterly devoid of pride, and having an undisguised contempt for the refined arts, which he imagined were necessary to the formation of an accomplished courtier. When elevated to the throne, he carried with him none of that questionable assumption, with which less wise princes envelope themselves, to raise the monarch above the man. Successive administrations had neglected the claims of the Duke of Clarence ; his royal Father never extended to him that sort of consideration which corresponded to the direction of his mind, or promoted the most useful of his qualities ; even the nation forgot that there existed, in the seclusion of one of our royal retreats, a Prince, who had been brought up to that profession in which England most gloried ; a profession, the ennobling rewards of which might be won by the humblest British subject, and yet were denied to a brave young Prince, who was disqualified for other pursuits from an early devotion to the navy.

This neglect had the effect of throwing the Duke back upon his own internal resources ; he made his life and conduct more frequently the object of his reflection ; he acquired an independence of feeling that separated him from slavish connection with the court, or the individuals that live in its dazzling brilliancy. These reflections, and the position into which he was brought by external circumstances, led the Duke, when placed by fortune on a monarch's throne, to

conclude, that his sole, as well as solid, dependence must be in his people, and that such should be the policy of the ruler of every free nation. King William's constant desire was to govern in consonance with public opinion, to merit the esteem of his subjects at large, and to rule on the broad basis of general affection.

A benevolent Providence extended the years, of our late King, to the consummation of what is termed a good old age; and, at his decease, the kingdom he had governed was the envy of foreign nations, in the resuscitation of her institutions, the extent of her knowledge and refinements, the increase of her wealth and population, and the repose that pervaded her immense boundaries.

Three of the four Williams who have, at different periods, directed the political destinies of Britain, were conspicuous in her records. The first introduced the Norman systematic legislature, and a reform of rudeness into civilization. In the third William's reign a reform so violent occurred, that, in the transition from one state of things to another, the very throne was shaken; this reform, historians have designated Revolution. In the age of William IV. the human mind had become enlarged, and the limits of the empire so extended, that the united powers of his illustrious namesakes could oppose but a momentary resistance to the array of strength which our late Sovereign might have marshalled; nor can the state of society under the early reigns bear any comparison with that which existed under the peaceful reign of England's Sailor-King, either as respects the arts, refinements, commerce, wealth, or rapid spread of knowledge amongst all classes of the community.

The reign of the late Monarch was brief, but bright; a brightness that may be said to arise from intensity rather

than diffusion. More honour emanates, from this short reign of seven years, to the Monarch, than could have followed from thirty years of painful opposition to the people's wishes. His memory will long be cherished with the most affectionate and grateful remembrance by the British nation, who have paid a more affecting and imperishable tribute to his obsequies, than the trophies of a thousand battles—the sincerity of their sorrow. To the conqueror, who by spoliation and bloodshed enlarges the bounds of his empire, belongs the distinction of *Great*;—it was the ambition of William IV. to deserve the title of *Good*, having manifested, through a long private life, the best qualities of an English gentleman—as a King, a respect for the purest degree of liberty compatible with civilized institutions—he well exchanged a title to the admiration of mankind, for an undisputed claim to their esteem and affections.

APPENDIX—No. I.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE LAST DAYS OF KING WILLIAM IV.

THE following narrative of the rapid progress of his late Majesty's final, fatal illness, and the pious resignation of the King during that solemn period, cannot fail to be read with deep interest. The initials that follow, and the place whence "the Recollections" are dated, sufficiently demonstrate that the most full confidence may be placed in them:—

Though a slight decline of strength had been perceptible to the immediate attendants of our lamented King, at the commencement of the year, yet it was not till the month of May that the state of his Majesty's health excited any serious apprehensions. On the 17th of that month his Majesty held a levee, but, on his return to Windsor Castle, showed great signs of debility and exhaustion, and oppression of breathing, in consequence of which he had considerable difficulty in ascending the staircase, and, when he had reached the corridor, was under the necessity of resting on the nearest sofa.

Though the King had experienced very considerable oppression during the night, yet his Majesty appeared refreshed, and was considered better the next morning, Thursday, May 18, and was not prevented from going to St. James's to hold a drawing-room, which had been appointed for that day. On these occasions, the last on which his Majesty appeared in public, he sat down; but this deviation from his usual practice did not excite so much alarm as the traces of sickness visible in his countenance. His debility, however, notwithstanding the exertions of the day, on reaching Windsor Castle, was not so great on this as on the preceding evening, and a slight improvement the following morning revived the hopes and spirits of his Majesty's anxious friends.

This day, Friday, was the anniversary of the battle of La Hogue, and, by command of his Majesty, several officers of distinction resident in the neighbourhood, together with the field-officers of the garrison, had been invited to dinner. In the course of the evening, the King detailed, with great minuteness, the causes, the progress, and consequences of the different naval wars in which this country had been engaged, during the last and present century, and gave, perhaps, greater proof on that than on any occasion, of the extraordinary accuracy of his memory, and of his intimate acquaintance with English history. His

Majesty's voice, with the exception of one or two moments of oppression of breathing, was very strong and clear, but no one present could fail to entertain apprehensions as to the effects of this exertion.

The next day, Saturday, May 20th, his Majesty continued to suffer from the same distressing symptoms. At breakfast and luncheon, his appetite, which had been gradually declining, altogether failed, and, at the latter meal, he fell back in his chair with a sensation of faintness, to which several persons alluded with strong expressions of alarm. His Majesty, on leaving the white drawing-room, sat down in the corridor, evidently feeble and exhausted. He did not leave the Castle this afternoon. At dinner his Majesty was affected by a similar seizure, and, to prevent increasing faintness, the Duchess of Gloucester, who was seated next to him, bathed his forehead and temples with eau-de-cologne. His Majesty rallied in the evening, but it was not till ten o'clock that he consented, in compliance with the Queen's request, to abandon his intention of going to St. James's the following morning, to be present at the re-opening of the Chapel Royal.

The King retired to bed at his usual hour of eleven, labouring under manifest indisposition. This was the last time his Majesty appeared in the drawing-room. The next morning, increasing indisposition confined him to his private apartments, which he never quitted during the continuance of his fatal malady.

The state of his Majesty's health now excited much and well-founded alarm. Sir H. Halford and Dr. Chambers were sent for; but as the latter had no ostensible situation in the royal household, it was thought advisable, in order to avoid causing any unnecessary alarm to the King, to introduce him to his Majesty as the medical attendant of the Queen, who had at this time but very imperfectly recovered from a long and dangerous illness, on the ground that he wished to make a report of her Majesty's health. Dr. Chambers was most graciously received by the King, who did not hesitate to avail himself of his advice in his own case. The arrival, however, of Dr. Chambers at the Castle was so late, that this interview did not take place till the following morning.

It were needless to trace minutely the progress of the King's disease, the fluctuating nature of which produced constant alternations of hope and fear. On Monday, May 22, and the following morning, the King gave audiences to Lord Melbourne, Lord Hill, Lord Glenelg, and other ministers; but the unfavourable impression produced by the King's appearance on all who were admitted to his presence, served but to extend the alarm now generally entertained. The next two days were passed uncomfortably, from the effects of this fatigue; but on

Saturday, May 27, his Majesty felt sufficiently strong to hold a council, and subsequently to give audience to all the cabinet ministers and officers of state by whom it was attended. That the King's debility had already made very rapid and alarming progress, may be inferred from the fact, that he had already lost the power of walking, and that it was now necessary for his medical attendant, Dr. Davies, to whom alone the King would entrust that duty, to wheel his Majesty in an easy chair into the council-room.

The King had looked forward with pleasure to the assembling of a large party, whom he had invited to Windsor Castle, to be present at the Eton regatta on June 5th, and at the Ascot races, which immediately followed.

In the afternoon of this day an unfavourable change in the King's state was evident to his attendants. With his usual benevolent feeling, however, he still, for the sake of others, took an interest in those amusements in which he could not personally participate. Every order issued by the King bore evidence of his very kind consideration, even in the most minute particulars, for the comfort and convenience of his guests, and of the Eton boys, whose pleasure he was always anxious to promote.

Influenced by a similar feeling, so predominant in his Majesty's character, and so remarkably exemplified in the closing year of his life, the King expressed his special desire that the Queen should attend the races at Ascot—preferring rather to dispense with the great comfort of her Majesty's society, than that the public should experience any disappointment from the absence of the royal family.

However little in accordance with the painful state of her own anxious feelings such a scene might be, the Queen did not hesitate to acquiesce in his Majesty's wishes. Her Majesty, therefore, drove to the course, but returned at the end of two hours to Windsor Castle, to resume her almost unceasing attendance on the King, and to find, alas! that even in that brief interval his Majesty had undergone much and unexpected suffering.

The next morning, Wednesday, June 7th, Sir H. Halford and Dr. Chambers found the King weaker, but cordials supplied temporary strength and power to take nourishment, which supported him during the day. Nevertheless, the greatest gloom, and even the most melancholy forebodings, pervaded the party assembled in the castle, which were distressingly manifested, as it will doubtless with pain be remembered, by all who were present at dinner on that day in St. George's Hall.

For some time previously, the King's medical attendants indulged the sanguine hope that his Majesty might derive considerable benefit from change of air. Many circumstances had conspired to prevent an earlier proposal of any plan which had

reference to this object; but with the concurrence of the physicians, Sir Herbert Taylor submitted this day to his Majesty their wish that he should remove for a few weeks to Brighton, where, with the advantage of the sea air, he would enjoy every comfort requisite in his present situation.

The King did not, as it was feared, express any disapprobation at the suggestion—on the contrary, he assented with pleasure to the arrangement, and expressed his hope that he might soon regain sufficient strength to undertake the journey. Preparations were accordingly made by his Majesty's command at the Pavilion. The kindness of the King's disposition was displayed even in the selection of the persons whom he appointed to attend him.

The state of his Majesty's health next morning (rendered worse by a sleepless night) was such as to damp any hope that might have been entertained with regard to the removal to Brighton. Increased difficulty of breathing, stoppage of the circulation, with the necessary consequences of coldness of the extremities and swelling of the legs, were among the symptoms which could not fail to excite the fear that the King's situation had now become one of extreme danger. Under these circumstances the party staying in the Castle dispersed this morning, Thursday, June 8, in obedience to the Queen's wishes; and while grief and despondency reigned within the palace, the same feelings were quickly propagated among an affectionate and loyal people, by the unexpected absence of the royal *cortège* from Ascot.

Contrary to expectation, the King passed a tranquil night. He was easier the next morning, but appeared very languid and feeble while transacting business with Sir Herbert Taylor, and his signatures to official papers were made with difficulty. His Majesty now, for the first time, consented that a bulletin should be issued, to allay, if possible, the anxiety which the public had long manifested.

In the afternoon of this day his Majesty experienced great and instantaneous relief from medicines which produced very copious expectoration. The amendment was so decided and evident as to inspire the hope that it might be more than temporary, and his Majesty was certainly enabled to pass the ensuing day without any distressing oppression of his breathing. For this alleviation of the pains, as well as for the more tranquil rest which he enjoyed during two successive nights, the gratitude to the Almighty felt and expressed by his Majesty was truly edifying. He was frequently heard to give utterance to these sentiments, with eyes raised to Heaven, in the most sincere and unaffected terms. His patience and cheerfulness had at all times excited the astonishment and admiration of all who had an opportunity of witnessing them. No murmur ever escaped his lips, and often,

in moments of the greatest suffering (which was subsequently proved to have far exceeded what his physicians had reason to suspect,) he testified his grateful sense of the care and attention of all who approached him, and his regret that he should be the cause of imposing on them the duty of so much painful attendance.

At no period, from the commencement of his attack, had his Majesty been insensible to his critical state; but when he alluded to the subject, it was evident that any anxiety which he felt arose less from personal apprehension than from solicitude for the country, and from a contemplation of the embarrassment into which it might possibly be thrown by his early dissolution. It was to such reflections as these that his Majesty gave expression on the morning of the 16th, when he observed to the Queen, "I have had some quiet sleep; come and pray with me, and thank the Almighty for it." Her Majesty had joined in this act of heartfelt devotion, and when the King had ceased, said, "And shall I not pray to the Almighty that you may have a good day?" To which his Majesty replied, "Oh, do! I wish I could live ten years, for the sake of the country. I feel it my duty to keep well as long as I can."

On the morning of Sunday the 11th, grateful for the refreshing rest which he had enjoyed, his Majesty's mind was impressed with the most pure devotional feelings. Seeing Lady Mary Fox occupied with a book, he inquired what she was reading, and being told that it was a prayer-book, his countenance beamed with pleasure, but he said nothing. After a considerable lapse of time, the Queen asked whether it would be agreeable to him if she read the prayers to him. His Majesty answered, "Oh, yes! I should like it very much, but it will fatigue you." He then desired to be informed who preached that morning in the chapel of the Castle, and when Lady Mary had ascertained, and told him that it was Mr. Wood who preached, he directed that he might be sent for.

When Mr. Wood entered the room, the King said, "I will thank you, my dear sir, to read all the prayers till you come to the prayer for the church militant." By which words his Majesty intended to include the communion service, and all the other parts of the liturgy used in the celebration of public worship.

It was equally an affecting and instructive lesson to observe the devout humility of his Majesty, fervently dwelling, as could be perceived from his manner and the intonation of his voice on every passage which bore even the most remote application to his own circumstances. His mind seemed quite absorbed in the duty in which he was engaged, and to rise for a time superior to his bodily infirmities; for during the whole service his attention was undisturbed, and he experienced none of those fits of cough-

ing and oppression, which for some time past had formed an almost uninterrupted characteristic of his complaint. As Mr. Wood withdrew, his Majesty graciously expressed his thanks, and afterwards said to the Queen, "It has been a great comfort to me." Nor was this a transitory feeling. To this pure and scriptural source of spiritual consolation his Majesty recurred with unfeigned gratitude; and on each day of the ensuing week did Lord Augustus Fitzclarence receive the King's commands to read to him the prayers either of the morning or evening service. On one of these occasions, when his Majesty was much reduced and exhausted, the Queen, fearful of causing any fatigue to him, inquired hesitatingly, whether, unwell as he was, he should still like to have the prayers read to him? He replied, "Oh, yes! beyond everything." Though very languid and disposed to sleep from the effects of medicine, his Majesty repeated all the prayers. The fatal progress of the King's complaint was very visible during the three following days, June 12th, 13th, and 14th. Nevertheless, on Tuesday the 13th, his Majesty gave audience to his Hanoverian minister, Baron Ompteda, whom, contrary to the suggestions of his attendants, he had specially summoned on business connected with that kingdom, in the welfare of which he had never ceased to feel a truly paternal interest. On Wednesday, the 14th, his Majesty received a visit from the Duke of Cumberland.

The King's attention to his religious duties, and the great comfort which was inspired by their performance, have already been referred to. It will, therefore, create no surprise that his Majesty joyfully assented to the Queen's suggestion, that he should receive the sacrament, or that he at once named the Archbishop of Canterbury as the person whom he wished to administer that holy rite. Sunday was the day fixed by the King for the discharge of this solemn duty; and a message was accordingly sent to his grace, desiring his presence at Windsor Castle on the ensuing Saturday.

The two intervening days were a period of great suffering to the King, whose illness more than once in that interval assumed the most alarming form, and in the evening of Friday excited apprehensions of his Majesty's immediate dissolution. The next morning, however, the King felt easier, and the most urgent symptoms had disappeared. In the usual course of business with Sir H. Taylor, he signed two public documents, though not without difficulty; but on every subject which was brought before him, his Majesty's power of perception was quick and accurate, and he anticipated with pleasure and thankfulness the approaching sacred duty of the morrow.

On the morning of Sunday, the 18th, though his Majesty's mental energies remained vigorous and unimpaired, a greater

degree of bodily weakness was perceptible. He raised himself in his chair with greater difficulty than the day before, and required more aid and support in every movement. The expression of his countenance, however, was perhaps more satisfactory. He transacted business with Sir H. Taylor, and affixed his signature to four documents—the remission of a court-martial, two appointments of colonial judges, and a free pardon to a condemned criminal. This was his Majesty's last act of sovereignty. Increasing debility prevented the repetition of a similar exertion; and thus, in the closing scene of his life, was beautifully and practically exemplified, by an act of mercy, that spirit of benevolence and forgiveness which shone with such peculiar lustre in his Majesty's character, and was so strongly reflected in the uniform tenor of his reign.

It had been arranged, as has been already remarked, that the King should on this day receive the sacrament from the hands of the Archbishop of Canterbury; and when Sir Herbert left the room, it appeared to the Queen that the most favourable time had arrived. The physicians, however, suggested to her Majesty the expediency of deferring the ceremony till the King should have in some degree recovered from his fatigue; but his Majesty had already experienced the blessed consolations of religion, and removed the doubts which his anxious attendants were entertaining, by eagerly desiring the Queen to send for the archbishop, seeming, as it were, anxious to ratify the discharge of his earthly, by the performance of his spiritual duties. His grace promptly attended, attired in his robes, and at a quarter to eleven administered the sacrament to his Majesty and the Queen, Lady Mary Fox communicating at the same time. The King was very calm and collected—his faculties were quite clear, and he paid the greatest attention to the service, following it in the prayer-book which lay on the table before him. His voice, indeed, failed, but his humble demeanour and uplifted eyes gave expression to the feelings of devotion and of gratitude to the Almighty, which his faltering lips refused to utter.

The performance of this act of religion, and this public attestation of his communion with that church, for the welfare and prosperity of which he had more than once during his illness ejaculated short but fervent prayers, was the source of great and manifest comfort to his Majesty.

Though the shorter form had been adopted by the Archbishop, his Majesty was, nevertheless, rather exhausted by the duration and solemnity of the ceremony; but as his grace retired, the King said, with that peculiar kindness of manner by which he was so much distinguished, and at the same time gently waiving his hand and inclining his head, "God bless you—a thousand, thousand thanks!" There cannot be more certain evidence of

the inward strength and satisfaction which the King derived from this office of religion, than, that in spite of great physical exertion, his Majesty, after the lapse of an hour, again requested the attendance of the Archbishop, who, in compliance with the wishes of the Queen, read the prayers for the evening service, with the happiest effect on the King's spirits. This being done, the Archbishop, naturally fearing the consequences of so much mental exertion on his Majesty's debilitated frame, was about to retire, when the King motioned to him to sit down at the table, on the opposite side of which he himself was seated. His Majesty was too weak to hold any conversation, but his spirits seemed soothed and comforted by the presence of the Archbishop, on whose venerable and benign countenance his Majesty's eye reposed with real pleasure.

The King at this interview stretched his hand across the table, and taking that of the Archbishop, pressed it fervently, saying, in a tone of voice which was audible only to the Queen, who was seated near his Majesty, "I am sure the Archbishop is one of those persons who pray for me." The afternoon of this day witnessed a still further diminution of his Majesty's strength, but in proportion to the decay of his bodily power was the increase of his spiritual hope and consolation. At nine o'clock in the evening, the Archbishop was again summoned by his Majesty's desire. The King was now still less able to converse than on the last occasion; but his grace remained more than three-quarters of an hour, supplying by his presence the same comfort to the King, and receiving from his Majesty the same silent though expressive proof of his satisfaction and gratitude. At length, on the suggestion of the Queen, that it was already late, and the Archbishop might become fatigued, the King immediately signified his assent that he should retire; and crossing his hands upon his breast, and inclining his head, said, as his grace left the room, "God bless thee, dear, excellent, worthy man—a thousand, thousand thanks."

The whole course of his Majesty's illness affords abundant proof, not only of his composure, his patience, and his resignation, but that even when under the pressure of great pain and suffering, his mind, far from being absorbed with the sad circumstances of his own situation, was often dwelling on subjects connected either with the affairs of the country, or with the comfort and convenience of individuals.

His Majesty rose this morning with the recollection that this was the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo. As early as half-past eight he alluded to the circumstance, and said to Dr. Chambers, "Let me but live over this memorable day—I shall never live to see another sunset." Dr. Chambers said, "I hope your Majesty may live to see many." To which his Majesty

replied in a phrase which he commonly employed, but the peculiar force of which those only who had the honour of being frequently admitted into his Majesty's society, can fully appreciate—"Oh! that is quite another thing."*

A splendid entertainment, as is well known, has been always given on this day, by the Duke of Wellington, to the officers engaged in that glorious action, and since his accession to the throne, his Majesty had himself honoured it with his presence.

Under the present circumstances, the duke, naturally feeling unwilling to promote any scene of festivity, had sent Mr. Greville to request the King's commands, or at least to ascertain the wishes and opinion of the Queen. Previous to the flag, annually presented by his grace, being deposited in the guard-chamber, it had been brought to his Majesty, who laying his hand upon it, and touching the eagle, said, "I am glad to see it. Tell the Duke of Wellington that I desire his dinner may take place to-morrow: I hope it will be an agreeable one." In the course of the night, the Queen observed to his Majesty, that the Archbishop had only been invited to stay till the following day—that his Grace wished to be honoured with his commands—and that he had expressed himself not only willing but anxious to stay as long as his services could be either acceptable or useful to him. The King immediately said, "Yes; tell him to stay. It will be the greatest blessing of God to hear that beautiful service read by him once more;" alluding to the liturgy of the church of England, from the frequent use of the prayers of which, his Majesty had been so much comforted and supported in his illness.

Monday, June 19.—Though his Majesty passed a tolerably tranquil night, yet no corresponding effect was produced upon his health. Decaying nature could no longer be recruited by the ordinary sources of strength and sustenance. His Majesty, however, rose at seven, for he had at no time during his illness been confined to his bed, and had even, for some weeks, anticipated by an hour his usual time of rising. There was much in the King's language and manner this morning which bespoke his sense of approaching death. On awaking, he observed to the Queen, "I shall get up once more to do the business of the country;" and when being wheeled in his chair from his bedroom to his dressing-room, he turned round, and looking with a benign and gracious smile on the Queen's attendants, who were standing in tears near the door, said, "God bless you!" and waved his hand.

At nine o'clock, by desire of the Queen, who was naturally anxious that the hope so fervently expressed by the King on the

* It was usually employed by his Majesty to express his dissent or incredulity with regard to any subject under discussion.

preceding night might be gratified as soon as possible, the Archbishop entered the King's room, and was received as at all other times, with the significant tokens of joy and thankfulness, which his Grace's presence never failed to call forth.

On this occasion the Archbishop read the service for the Visitation of the Sick. The King was seated, as usual, in his easy chair; the Queen affectionately kneeling by his side, making the responses, and assisting him to turn over the leaves of the large prayer-book which was placed before him. His Majesty's demeanour was characterized by the most genuine spirit of devotion. Though unable to join audibly in the responses which occur in the service, yet when the Archbishop had rehearsed the articles of our Creed, his Majesty, in the fulness of his faith, and labouring to collect all the energies of sinking nature, enunciated with distinct and solemn emphasis the words, "All this I steadfastly believe."

During the whole service his Majesty retained hold of the Queen's hand, and in the absence of physical strength to give utterance to his feelings, signified, by his fervent pressure of it, not only his humble acquiescence in the doctrines of our holy faith, but his grateful acknowledgment of those promises of grace and succour which so many passages of this affecting portion of the liturgy hold out to the dying Christian, and the belief of which his Majesty so thankfully appreciated in this his hour of need.

With the other hand his Majesty frequently covered his eyes and pressed his brow, as if to concentrate all his powers of devotion, and to restrain the warmed emotions of his heart, which were so painfully excited by the distress of those who surrounded him. His Majesty did not allow the Archbishop to withdraw without the usual significant expression of his gratitude, "A thousand, thousand thanks."

It was when the Archbishop pronounced the solemn and truly affecting form of blessing, contained in the "Service for the Visitation of the Sick," that the Queen for the first time in his Majesty's apartment was overpowered by the weight of affliction.

The King observed her emotion, and said, in a tone of kind encouragement, "Bear up, bear up."

At the conclusion of the prayers his Majesty saw all his children; and as they successively knelt to kiss the hand, gave them his blessing in the most affectionate terms, suitable to the character and circumstances of each. They had all manifested the most truly filial affection to his Majesty during his illness; but on Lady Mary Fox, the eldest of his Majesty's surviving daughters, had chiefly devolved the painful, yet consolatory duty of assisting the Queen in her attendance on the King.

The extreme caution of his Majesty, and his anxiety to avoid

causing any pain or alarm to the Queen, was very remarkable. He never alluded in distinct terms to death, in her Majesty's presence. It was about this period of the day that he tenderly besought her Majesty not to make herself uneasy about him; but that he was already anticipating his speedy dissolution was evident from his expressions to several of his relatives. Even at this advanced stage of his disease, and under circumstances of the most distressing debility, the King had never wholly intermitted his attention to public business. In accordance with his usual habits, he had this morning frequently desired to be told when the clock struck half-past ten, about which time his Majesty uniformly gave audience to Sir Herbert Taylor. At eleven, when Sir Herbert was summoned, the King said, "Give me your hand. Now get the things ready." On Sir Herbert saying that he had no papers to-day, his Majesty appeared surprised, till Sir Herbert added, "It is Monday, Sire; there is no post, and no boxes are come;" when he replied, "Ah, true—I had forgot." The Queen then named Sir Henry Wheatly, who had entered the apartment. The King regarded him with a gracious look, and extended his hand to him, as he did also to Dr. Davies, evidently influenced by the same motive which had prompted a similar action to Sir Herbert Taylor—a last acknowledgment of their faithful services. His Majesty then passed several hours in a state of not uneasy slumber: the Queen almost uninterruptedly kneeling by his side, and gently chafing his hand, from which assurance of her presence his Majesty derived the greatest comfort.

During this afternoon, to such an extremity of weakness was the King reduced, that he scarcely opened his eyes, save to raise them in prayer to heaven, with a look expressive of the most perfect resignation. Once or twice indeed this feeling found expression in the words "Thy will be done!" and on one occasion he was heard to utter the words, "the church—the church!" and the name of the Archbishop.

It was about nine o'clock in the evening of this day that the Archbishop visited the King for the last time.

His Majesty's state altogether incapacitated him from joining in any act or exercise of devotion; but, as at each preceding interview, his grace's presence proved a source of joy and consolation to the dying Monarch, who strove in vain to convey any audible acknowledgments of the blessings which he sensibly enjoyed; but when, on leaving the room, the Archbishop said, "My best prayers are offered up for your Majesty," the King replied, with slow and feeble yet distinct utterance, "Believe me, I am a religious man."

After this exertion his Majesty gently moved his hand in token of his last farewell, and the Archbishop withdrew.

As the night advanced, a more rapid diminution of his Majesty's vital powers was perceptible.

His weakness now rendered it impracticable to remove him into his usual bed-room, and a bed was accordingly prepared in the royal closet, which communicates with the apartment in which his Majesty had passed the last ten days of his life. At half-past ten the King was seized with a fainting fit, the effects of which were mistaken by many for the stroke of death. However, his Majesty, gradually, though imperfectly, revived, and was then removed into his bed.

From this time his voice was not heard, except to pronounce the name of his valet. In less than an hour his Majesty expired without a struggle and without a groan, the Queen kneeling at the bedside, and still affectionately holding his hand, the comfortable warmth of which rendered her unwilling to believe the reality of the sad event.

Thus expired in the seventy-third year of his age, in firm reliance on the merits of his Redeemer, King William the Fourth, a just and upright king, a forgiving enemy, a sincere friend, and a most gracious and indulgent master.

Bushy House, July 14, 1837.

J. R. W.

APPENDIX—No. II.

CONTAINING ANECDOTES OF THE LATE KING, WHICH COULD
NOT BE CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED.

Of the early habits of Prince William Henry, Mr. Carpue, the anatomist, related the following anecdote :—

It was some years ago, Mr. Carpue's business, as a surgeon, to examine some recruits near Bushy, and to certify his opinion before a magistrate. His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, who happened to sit on the bench, put several questions touching the physical condition of fitness and unfitness for military service. The papers having been signed by his Royal Highness, Mr. Carpue was surprised at the excellence of the hand-writing, and said as much to the Duke. He replied with his usual good humour—"Why, the fact is, that when I served as a midshipman, (and you must know, I served my regular time,) I was obliged to keep a log-book, and my captain had a particular aversion to bad writing. I thus acquired a habit of writing legibly, and I also acquired a habit which has been of

the greatest use to me through life, and that is, of recording the occurrences of the day. Every night of my life I make it a rule to set down (as I used when a midshipman with the log-book) the occurrences of the day, and, by so doing, submit my actions to the scrutiny of a self-examination. The habit is a good one. I have tried, and proved it."

Soon after Prince William Henry entered the navy, he had a warm dispute with a Mr. Moodie, an officer of marines; and neither being disposed to yield, words became high, and attitudes menacing; when the marine exclaimed, "If it was not for your coat, Sir, I would give you such a basting as you little dream of." Upon which his Royal Highness replied, at the same time pulling off his jacket, "My coat, Sir, shall never bring a stain upon my honour," and, advancing towards his antagonist, gave him the signal for combat; which continued with equal violence, till an order from a superior officer obliged them to desist. His Royal Highness then took the hand of his combatant, and, shaking it cordially, said to him, "Thou art a brave fellow, though a marine, and henceforth rely on my friendship?"

Some years after this occurrence, his Royal Highness, when cruising with Lord Leveson Gower, in the North Seas, put into the Long Hope in the Orkneys, and finding that the late Captain Richan, of the navy, was at Kirkwall, proceeded thither on a visit to him. His Royal Highness remembering that his quondam friend, of the marines, was a native of that country, inquired for him, and, finding he was then there, expressed a wish to see him, which was readily granted by Captain Richan, who despatched a boat to bring him from a neighbouring island. The interview was gratifying to all present. His Royal Highness inquired minutely into Mr. Moodie's affairs, and, finding that he needed the assistance of a friend, he settled an annuity upon him, until he could procure him an appointment. Many were the favours subsequently bestowed upon the brave marine by the kind-hearted Prince, who has since given so many proofs of his impartial judgment, and consideration of the claims of neglected merit.

The following instance of royal condescension, related in a private letter from Dr. Burne, the editor of an ecclesiastical work, appeared in a Glasgow paper, and was copied from thence into the London journals:—

"Having communicated to Mr. Young, Lord Melbourne's private secretary, the wish of the publishers of Wodrow's Church History, to have the next edition of it dedicated to his Majesty, as the first had been to George I., and that His Majesty would

be pleased to accept a copy of the work. In the course of a few days I had an answer from Mr. Young, stating, that his Majesty had most readily acceded to the petition to have the work inscribed to him, and that he had ordered Sir Herbert Taylor to say, that his Majesty would be glad to see me at the Pavilion at Brighton, and to receive the copy of the work which had been prepared for his Majesty's acceptance. Accordingly, I went down; and after breakfast, on Tuesday, I had a card from Sir Herbert Taylor, stating that his Majesty would see me at half-past one. We drove up to the grand entrance: afterwards the chief page made his appearance, and conducted me into a large and handsome saloon, where he told me to walk about for a few minutes, till his Majesty was disengaged. I did so, and, the page having soon returned, told me that Sir Herbert was in the ante-room, and was ready to introduce me to his Majesty. On going in to Sir Herbert (who is a very tall and gentlemanly-looking man, a general officer,) he told me, that kneeling was dispensed with, and that I might just do as I would in the presence of any nobleman or gentleman of rank. He led me into the presence-chamber, a large and elegantly furnished room, announced my name, and then retired, leaving me thus alone with the King.

"His Majesty was sitting at a table, but rose and returned my obeisance just in the way that one gentleman is accustomed to do to another. I then walked up to him, with my volumes in my hand, and addressed him nearly as follows—'I have the honour of laying before your Majesty a work, which was published more than a century ago, and dedicated to George I. This is the second edition, with a life of the author, notes, and other additions; and your Majesty has here a specimen of the progress made in typography in the west of Scotland. The work is a national one, and has been highly approved by Mr. Fox, Mr. Chalmers, and others, as a correct statement of facts illustrative of a very important period of our history. I have the honour of requesting your Majesty's acceptance of this copy, and to return your Majesty the best thanks of the publishers, and of myself as editor, for the condescending manner in which your Majesty has been pleased to permit the new edition of the work to be dedicated to your Majesty.'

"By this time his Majesty had got hold of the volumes, and was busily employed examining the title-page, contents, plates, &c., with all which he expressed himself much pleased. On turning up successively the engravings of Sharpe, Claverhouse, Lauderdale, Carstairs, &c., remarks were made on each, and the King seemed to be very well informed in their respective histories. 'The work,' he said, 'contains, I think, the history of

the persecutions of Scotland in the days of Charles II.' 'Yes, please your Majesty, it is the history of the eventful period from the Restoration, in 1660, till the Revolution in 1688.' 'A very valuable record it must be,' he added.

"After speaking a little more upon the subject of the book, the King asked, 'Pray, sir, what situation do you hold in Scotland?' I told him, 'Please your Majesty, I am one of the parochial ministers of Paisley, so well known for its manufactures, and where, I am sorry to inform your Majesty, there is at present very great distress among the operatives, 2000 or 3000 of whom are out of work.' His Majesty asked the cause; when I adverted to several causes, such as the unsettled state of the public mind occasioned by the delay in the settlement of the reform question, the prevalence of disease on the Continent, and the restraints on trade by quarantine, the trade being overdone with us, and the periodical results of speculation,' &c. 'Have you many Irish in Paisley, and are they mostly Roman Catholics?' I told him we had a great many Irish families, that the greater part were Catholics, particularly those from the south and west; that it had a good many Protestants and Presbyterians from the north: that there are many poor amongst them, and that we felt the burden of supporting the poor of a country which has no system of poor laws for itself. His Majesty said, 'That is a great evil, and something must be done by the legislature; but they must take time to deliberate on a matter of such importance. The ministry are determined to do nothing rashly, and they have had many things to occupy their thoughts of late.' I remarked, that his Majesty's attention must have been for sometime past very painfully engaged with these matters; when he said, in reply, that he personally had not felt the burden so much, but that those who were his advisers had certainly done so. I expressed a hope, that, with the blessing of Divine Providence, matters would soon be brought to a bearing, and the nation's best interests effectually secured: to which he most cordially assented.

"There was also a good deal said on the subject of the state of the poor in England, the objections to the theory and management of the poor laws, &c.; and his Majesty shewed that he understood the subject well, and entered fully into the objections against the system of paying the price of labour out of the rates, and thus degrading the labouring population of England into paupers, and representing those moneys as given to the support of the poor, which are, in fact, appropriated to far different objects. 'You manage these things better in Scotland.' 'Please your Majesty, our poor do not expect so much as the English poor. I observed a case in court, the other day, where

the dispute lay between 5s. a head for each member of the family, and 2s.; and the judges decided on a medium, 3s. 6d. In Scotland, in place of 12s. or 15s. for this family of poor applicants, the sum allowed for one member of it would have been held quite sufficient.'

" 'In Paisley, you are all, I presume, of the church of Scotland?' 'Please your Majesty, we have many Presbyterians, dissenters from us; yet our dissenters differ from us almost wholly on one point—the law of lay patronage. Our standards and mode of worship are the same. We have also an episcopal chapel in Paisley, to the building of which, if I am not mistaken, your Majesty was pleased to contribute; and I have to inform your Majesty, that, when I left Scotland, a few weeks ago, the erection was in progress, and it will be a very great ornament to the town.' 'Your people in Paisley, I think, are mostly engaged in weaving?' I told his Majesty, that weaving was our great staple; that about a hundred years ago Paisley began its career as a manufacturing town; that, successively, linen, thread, silk, gauze, and cotton, in all its forms, had been prominent; that, like Spitalfields, we feel deeply the depression of trade; yet that, unlike Spitalfields, we had not so near us the wealth and the resources of the metropolis. I noticed, however, the great kindness of the London committee in 1822 and 1826, in contributing to our fund to the extent of £16,000 or £18,000. The King spoke of there being no predisposition to riot either in Englishmen or Scotsmen, and this led us to notice the causes of excitement, such as poverty, evil advisers, bad publications, &c. After again thanking his Majesty for the honour done me, and expressing my fear of having intruded too long on his time, his Majesty replied very graciously, and I retired.

"Sir Herbert was still in the ante-room, and asked me to take a sight of the apartments in the palace, a suite of rooms said to be unequalled in Europe for splendour: they exceed all my ideas of magnificence; yet, to attempt a description, would be vain. I saw in one of the rooms the full-length portrait of the King, in which Wilkie is at present engaged, a very exact likeness; and, as his Majesty had been sitting, or rather standing, for it in the morning, I saw him not in the morning costume, but in full dress: he has not the portly (august) appearance of George the Fourth, yet reminds me of a respectable and good-looking country gentleman. After regaling myself with these interesting sights, I bade adieu to the palace."

The following anecdote merits a place in this collection:—

Prince William, while yet an officer of inferior rank, in passing over London Bridge, one sharp day in winter, observed a

squalid-looking figure, with scarcely a rag to cover him from the inclemency of the weather. On eyeing him closely, his Royal Highness recognized in this woe-begone object an old shipmate, who had sailed with him in the *Prince George*, and had been a sort of favourite. The royal youth stopped, made himself known to the poor fellow, and went with him to an old clothes' shop near Wellclose-square, where he rigged him from top to toe. The amount of the Jew's charge was three pounds fifteen shillings,—but here the Prince, in his haste to perform a good action, never once reflected that he did not possess the means. Happening, however, to have a valuable gold watch in his pocket, he sold the case to the Israelite for five guineas, paid the bill, and gave the balance to his companion. This man afterwards, by the interest of his Royal Highness, obtained a quarter-master's situation on board an East Indiaman, in which service he realised property enough to retire, and settle for the remainder of his days in the parish of Stepney.

The economy of the Prince was no less commendable than his liberality; as an instance of which, the following fact is recorded:—

A service of plate was delivered at the Duke of Clarence's house, by his order, accompanied by the bill, amounting to fifteen hundred pounds, which his Royal Highness deeming exorbitant, sent back, remarking, that he conceived the overcharge to be occasioned by the apprehension that the tradesman might be kept long out of his money. He added, that so far from its being his intention to pay by tedious instalments, or otherwise distress those with whom he dealt, he had laid it down as an invariable principle, to discharge every account the moment it became due. The account was returned to his Royal Highness the next morning, with three hundred pounds taken off, and it was instantly paid.

When his Royal Highness, as Admiral of the fleet, took the command of the squadron which was appointed to convey the sovereigns of Russia and Prussia to this country, he hoisted his flag on board the *Impregnable*, which had previously been the flag-ship of the late Admiral Sir William Young. It is the privilege of every Admiral to select his own officers, and, of course, on an occasion of so much interest as that here mentioned, innumerable were the applications made by naval officers, to have the honour of serving under the Royal Duke. His Royal Highness, however, with a generosity which did honour to his heart, refused to make room for any of his own friends, by displacing the officers left in the *Impregnable* by Admiral Young,

saying, that though he had been obliged to supersede the Admiral himself, none of his officers should be disappointed of going on the enviable service for which the ship was destined. This act of generosity was also accompanied by one of great justice, which showed how well considered was his Royal Highness's kindness. An Admiral has not only the privilege of choosing his own officers, but also that of placing them in what order he pleases, without regard to their seniority on the navy list, making the junior first, if he thinks fit. The officers of the Impregnable had accordingly been placed in the ship by Admiral Young, without regard to the date of their commissions; but when his Royal Highness so considerately commanded these officers to be retained as his own, he very justly, at the same time, ordered them to take rank according to their seniority.

When the Duke of Clarence became Lord High Admiral, he chose for his private secretary, the Hon. Captain Robert Cavendish Spencer, third son of Earl Spencer, who rendered great assistance to his royal patron, in effecting many useful reforms in the naval department. To Captain Spencer is attributed the Nautical Catechism, which obtained the name of the Ninety-nine Questions, and which, though not acted upon, was productive of some important results. During the illness of Sir William Hoste, Captain Spencer took the command of the Royal Sovereign Yacht, when the Lord High Admiral made his second visitation to the dockyards in 1828. Exemplary in all his conduct, he thought it right to read to the ship's company the service of the church; and his Royal Highness observed, that he had never heard it performed with more impressive eloquence than on that occasion.

This gallant officer was cut off from the service of his country, at the age of thirty-nine, in the Mediterranean, on board the Madagascar frigate, of which he was the commander, November 4, 1830.

In the early part of the year 1831, a gentleman left town for Brighton, where, passing along the Steyne, he met the King. His Majesty, with his usual frank urbanity, accosted him as an old acquaintance. "Ah, L——, how are you? what brings you here? how long do you stay?" L—— replied, he came to see a sick relation, and was obliged to return the ensuing day. "Pooh, pooh, pooh," said his Majesty, "you must dine with me first." "Please your Majesty, I am under the necessity of returning immediately." "Nonsense; come to-morrow. Sir Herbert, do you mind, L—— does not go away without dining with me." L—— whispered to Sir Herbert, that it was quite

impossible he could avail himself of the honour, for he was deficient in a certain article of dress. Sir Herbert overwhelmed poor L——, by at once informing his Majesty of his reason for declining the honour,—namely, that he had no breeches. “Non-sense—ceremony—stuff—let him come without, let him come without,” said the King.

It has already been stated, that the Duke of Clarence was the early and liberal patron of the theatrical prodigy commonly called the “Young Roscius,” whose portrait, engraved from the picture painted by the late Mr. Northcote, was in consequence inscribed to his Royal Highness. Since the death of the artist, the following anecdote has appeared:—

One day, the Royal Duke, being left only with Lady ——, the Young Roscius, and the painter, and perhaps worn a little out of patience with the tedium of an unusually long sitting, thought to beguile an idle minute by quizzing the personal appearance of the royal academician. It is well known that Northcote, at no period of life, was either a buck, a blood, a fop, or maccaroni; he soon despatched the business of the toilette, when a young man; and, as he advanced to a later period, he certainly could not be dubbed a dandy. The loose gown, in which he painted, was principally composed of shreds and patches, and might perchance be half a century old; his white hair was sparingly bestowed on each side, and his cranium was entirely bald. Thus loosely attired, the Royal Visitor, standing behind whilst he painted, gently lifted, or rather twitched, the collar of the gown; which Mr. Northcote resented, by suddenly turning, and expressing his displeasure by a frown. Nothing daunted, his Royal Highness presently, with his finger, touched the professor's grey locks, observing, “You do not devote much time to the toilette, I perceive—pray—how long do you?”—Northcote instantly replied, “Sir, I never allow any one to take personal liberties with me: you are the first that ever presumed to do so, and I beg your Royal Highness to recollect that I am in my own house.” He then resumed his painting. The Prince, whatever he thought or felt, kept it to himself; and, remaining silent for some minutes, Mr. Northcote addressed his conversation to the lady, when the Royal Duke, gently opening the door of the studio, shut it after him, and walked away. Northcote did not quit his post, but proceeded with his painting. It happened that the royal carriage was not ordered until five o'clock: it was now not four. Presently the Royal Duke returned, reopened the door, and said, “Mr. Northcote, it rains; pray, lend me an umbrella.” Northcote, without emotion, rang the bell; the servant attended, and he desired her to bring her mistress's

umbrella, that being the best in the house, and sufficiently handsome. The Royal Duke patiently waited for it in the back drawing-room, the studio door still open; when having received it, he again walked down stairs, attended by the female servant, who, on opening the street door, his Royal Highness thanked her, and, spreading the umbrella, departed. "Surely, his Royal Highness is not gone; I wish you would allow me to ask," said Lady ———. "Certainly, his Royal Highness *is* gone," replied Northcote, "but I will inquire, at your instance." The bell was rung again, and the servant confirmed the assertion. "Dear Mr. Northcote," said Lady ———, "I fear you have highly offended his Royal Highness." "Madam," replied the painter, "I am the offended party." Lady ——— made no other remark, than wishing her carriage had arrived; which soon happening, Mr. Northcote courteously attended her down to the hall; he bowed, she curtsied, and, stepping into her carriage, set off with the infant Roscius. The next day, about noon, Mr. Northcote happening to be alone, a gentle tap was heard, and the studio door opened, when, who should walk in but his Royal Highness! "Mr. Northcote," said he "I am come to return your sister's umbrella, which she was so good as to lend me yesterday." The painter bowed, received it, and placed it in a corner. "I brought it myself, Mr. Northcote, that I might have the opportunity of saying, that I yesterday took a very unbecoming liberty with you, and you properly resented it; I really am angry with myself, and hope you will forgive me, and think no more of it." "And what did you say?" inquired the first friend to whom he related the circumstance. "Say! why, nothing; I only bowed, and he might *see* what I felt. I could at the instant have sacrificed my life for him: such a Prince is worthy to be a King!" The venerable painter had the gratification to live to see him a King.

The following is another instance of the handsome manner in which the Royal Personage could correct any trifling indecorum into which, from his frankness, he might chance to fall. Being once in a fashionable shop at Brighton, the Duke was struck with the entrance of three ladies in the dress of Quakers. While the two eldest were looking over some of the articles, the Duke addressed himself to the youngest, who was about fourteen, and said, "So, I see that thou art not above the vanities of this gay world." The fair young Friend said nothing; but the matron, under whose care she was, gave a look more expressive than words. The Prince felt it; and, immediately purchasing a handsome work-basket, respectfully asked the eldest lady for permission to present it to her daughter. The answer was mild, but

laconic. "She will receive it, and thank thee, friend." The basket was accordingly taken, with the same courtesy as given; and thus the matter ended.

On the death of the late keeper of Bushy-park, the Duke of Clarence appointed his son, a young man, to succeed him, the office having been in the family for many years. This young man had the misfortune to break his leg; the benevolent Duke visited him with consolations, and found him especially anxious about the care of the deer. "Well, John," said his Royal Highness, "don't fret about the deer; keep your mind easy, and I will pay daily attention to them; I will attend to your duty while you are confined; and mind you do not get out too soon." Shortly after his recovery, the young man took to drinking; and the Duke, in order to cure him of the evil propensity, required his attendance every night at eight o'clock, and, if he appeared in liquor, reprimanded him on the following morning. The Royal kindness was, however, thrown away upon a worthless subject; for soon after his Majesty's accession, the infatuated keeper died from the effects of intemperance.

Many years ago, the Duke of Clarence visited the North of England, in company with his eldest brother, the Prince of Wales. They were entertained there with a noble hospitality, such as could not have been excelled even in the more favoured districts of the South. The display of plate, the elegance of the dinners, the truly baronial splendour which he saw in many of the halls, and the general information of the people, astonished exceedingly the young sailor. One day, after dinner, how long after dinner is not related, when the influence of the jolly god began to operate, the Duke expressed his amazement at the unexpected phenomena he had witnessed. "My royal Brother and myself, he observed, have been not a little gratified at finding so much civilization in this out-of-the-way country. We expected barbarism; but really you seem a civilized people, after all!" This anecdote has been related with the intention of prejudicing the character of the Prince; but, upon a little reflection it will be found to have a contrary tendency. This certainly was not the form or manner in which his accomplished Brother would have complimented the northerners: during the Duke's homely, but honest speech, the Prince appeared in the greatest embarrassment, endeavoured to check the sailor-boy, and bit his lips through excess of feeling.

The following scene, enacted at the Admiralty, illustrates forcibly the effect of early habits, and the almost impossibility

of unlearning, by any length of years included in the brief term of human life, those habits, forms, and even morals, which we acquire in youthful days. Shortly before the Duke was appointed Lord High Admiral, he had occasion to visit a gentleman at the Foreign office, at an early hour of the morning. The weather being severe, he was enveloped in a great coat, which quite disguised his appearance. "Where is Mr.——," he asked the porter. "Don't know," was the reply. The Duke stared, but advancing, and seeing a door open, he entered, and observed two or three clerks attending to the business of the nation, that is, reading newspapers. "Where is Mr.——," no reply—but on the question being repeated in an impatient tone, one of the gentlemen, slowly raising his eyes from the paper, said, "You can inquire for yourself." Finding even less attention, and no respect, in other apartments, he at length lost all self-command, made known his rank to the astonished public servants, and concluded by threatening "to kick *the whole crew*."

The following is one amongst innumerable instances of kind-hearted attention to humble merit, displayed by his late Majesty. "The officers of the Horse-guards being invited to dine at the Castle; on their arrival, the King immediately noticed the absence of a grey-headed subaltern, who, after a long career of meritorious service in the ranks, had been rewarded with a commission. On his Majesty's inquiring for him, the commandant apologized for his absence, adding, that he was an old soldier who was more at home in the camp than the court. This was not an answer to satisfy the true English heart of the King, who immediately ordered one of his own carriages to proceed to Windsor to bring up the reluctant veteran *nolens volens*, to share the royal hospitality. He came, and met with such a warm-hearted and unostentatious welcome, that he was placed in a moment more at his ease in the company of his King, than he would have been after hours in that of many a military martinet, whom interest might have misplaced over his head."

There is an anecdote of King William's latter days, that has something of a mysterious character, or possibly it has not been intelligibly narrated by the original author of its publication. One evening, at sunset, about a week previous to that attack of illness which prostrated the King upon the couch of death, his late Majesty, unattended, was walking slowly up the lower ward of the Castle, near the cloisters of St. George's Chapel; and, seeing the sexton with his keys about to close the door of that part of the chapel under which the tomb-house is situated, the burial-place of the Brunswick family, his Majesty said to

him, "Oh, you are there; I may as well look in before you take away the keys." The sexton then threw open the door; the King entered, closed the door after him, and remained there alone for more than half an hour. How he could have employed himself during that half hour, it is impossible to imagine. There is nothing to be seen but the bare walls, some dust-covered planks, and fragments of stone left by the masons on the floor. But that place was the upper chamber of the monument of his royal predecessors, and he might have meditated profitably upon the awful transition that was soon to place himself amongst them.

Amongst the late King's interesting attentions to the Royal Chapel, and its full and perfect preservation, is to be mentioned the insertion of a large slab of black marble in the pavement of the choir, in front of the altar, bearing, in beautifully executed Roman capitals of brass, inlaid, this inscription :

In a Vault
Beneath this marble slab are
Deposited the Remains
of
KING HENRY VIII.
1537.
KING CHARLES I.
1648.
and
An infant Child of Queen Anne.
This Memorial was placed here
By command of KING WILLIAM IV.
1837.

None of the anecdotes tending to demonstrate the benevolence of King William, can be more illustrative of the fact than the following simple story.—Soon after his accession to the throne a statement appeared in the public journals, relative to an individual, who had for many years been a respectable shop-keeper in the parish of St. James, but who, with his family, had been reduced to great distress, in consequence of the non-payment of a large debt contracted by the Duke of York. On reading this paragraph, his Majesty directed that the tradesman should be brought before him. After expressing his regret that the creditors of his illustrious brother should have been so long deprived of their just demands, and his hope that in a very short time every claim would be satisfied; his Majesty put a large sum of money into the creditor's hand, and added, that if his necessities required it, he might come again. This act of humanity did not limit his Majesty's goodness on this occasion. Understanding that the distressed tradesman had a numerous

family, he expressed his intention to provide for one of the boys, a promise fulfilled soon after by putting him into a midshipman's berth. During this interesting scene, her Majesty entered, and being informed of the circumstances, immediately appointed the eldest girl to a comfortable situation in the royal household.

One of the last acts of our late Monarch marked his munificence, and, at the same time, his attachment to the established church, and anxious wishes for the spiritual welfare of the inhabitants of the place where he was born. On learning from the vicar of Kew, that there was not sufficient room in the church for the accommodation of the inhabitants, he ordered its enlargement at an expense of £3,000 out of his private purse.

The following anecdote evinces, in an eminent degree, the kind and charitable disposition of the late King. The curate of an Irish church, in the metropolis, wrote to his mother in the north of Ireland, desiring her to come to London for the purpose of teaching him the Irish dialect, of which he was ignorant, in order that he might be enabled to instruct the Irishmen in a particular part of London, where they are very numerous. His mother not having the means of performing so long a journey, and being anxious to oblige her son, wrote a letter to the King, appealing to his Majesty's benevolence, with this superscription "To the King, London." The letter reached its destination, and was put into the King's hands; his Majesty made the necessary inquiries, and being satisfied of the accuracy of the representation, very generously gave 25 guineas, which were forwarded to the mother in Ireland, through Lord Melbourne. The son mentioned the fact, without divulging the name of the donor, in a sermon which he preached on the death of King William.

The following anecdote will be read with interest by many. A short time previous to the illness of his late Majesty, a poor lad in the employ of Mr. Hitchins, baker of Walcott-street, in this city, got possessed of the idea that he had a taste for music, and determined on making an effort to obtain some assistance, whereby he might acquire the means of gratifying this taste. He accordingly "screwed his courage to the sticking point," and wrote a letter to the King, in which he ingenuously set forth his wants, stated himself to be a poor lad, and hoped his Majesty would take his case into consideration, and present him with a piano, in the event of his having an old one which he did not want. The King, with that promptitude which might have been anticipated from his business-habits, immediately caused an inquiry to be made, through Lord James O'Brien, respecting the truth of the boy's representation; and his Lordship, finding

that no duplicity had been resorted to, reported to his Majesty. The King at once expressed a wish that the boy should be sent to London, to have the advantage of a musical education at the Royal Academy; but this munificent proposal was received with suspicion rather than gratitude by the boy's parents, who thought that the King only wanted to get their son sent to London, to punish him for his imprudence. They, therefore, obstinately refused to sanction his removal. Their unfounded fears, however, did not prevent his Majesty from performing an act of kindness, for only a short time previous to his death, his Majesty ordered a piano to be purchased, as a present for the lad. The instrument was accordingly placed in the hands of his employer, Mr. Hitchens. The circumstance which prompted the lad to address his Majesty, was his hearing a paragraph read from a newspaper, detailing the success which had attended a similar application by a poor girl to the King of Prussia.—*Bath Gazette*.

APPENDIX—No. III.

THE FITZCLARENCE FAMILY.

The following particulars, of the Fitzclarence Family, are extracted from the Gentleman's Magazine for 1837.

THE NAMES of the FITZCLARENCE FAMILY, with the dates of their several Marriages, Promotions, &c. (the deceased members in *Italics*.)

1. Sophia, Lady de Lisle and Dudley, married August 13, 1825, to Philip Charles Sidney, Esq.; raised to the rank of the daughter of a Marquis, May 24, 1831; made housekeeper of Kensington Palace, January 1837; and died there, April 10th, 1837. Her husband, who is the only son of Sir John Shelley Sidney, of Penshurst place, county of Kent, Bart. was formerly a Captain in the 1st Guards, and M. P. for Eye, was made Equerry to the King, July, 1830, and G. C. H. the same year; Surveyor-general of the Duchy of Cornwall, March, 1833; a Lord of the Bedchamber, 1833; and on the eighth of January, 1835, was created a peer by the titles of Baron de Lisle and Dudley, of Penshurst; and C. L. at Cambridge, July 6th 1835. Lady de Lisle had six children, of whom four survive: 1. Adelaide Augusta Wilhelmina; 2. Philip Sidney; 3. Robert Dudley; died 1830; 4. Elisabeth Frederica, died 1831; 5. Hon. Ernestine Wellington; 6. Sophia Philippa.

2. George Earl of Munster; Viscount Fitzclarence and Baron of Tewkesbury, born Jan. 16th, 1794. He served in the Peninsula with the 10th Hussars, when Lieut. and Aid-de-camp to Major-Gen. Stewart; was slightly wounded at Fuentes d'Honor, May 3, 1811; and, when Captain, was severely wounded at Toulouse, April 10th,

1814. On the 9th of November, 1814, he was removed, together with his brother Henry, and other officers of the regiment, in consequence of having signed a letter addressed to the Prince Regent, complaining of the conduct of the senior lieutenant-colonel, Col. Quentin, before 1820. Captain Fitzclarence published his *Travels in India*. He was appointed Major of the 1st West India regiment, December 20th, 1822, and removed to the 6th Dragoons on the 27th of the same month, Captain and Lieutenant-Colonel of the Coldstream Guards, July 16th, 1825. After his father's accession, he was made Aid-de-camp to the King with the rank of Colonel, July 26th, 1830, and at the same time Deputy-Adjutant-General, which office a few months after he resigned. On the 12th of May 1831, he was created a Peer by the titles above-mentioned with remainder to his brothers. He was made Lieutenant of the Tower of London, July 21st, 1831, which he resigned in January 1833; Colonel of the Tower Hamlets Militia, August 29th, 1831; was sworn one of the Privy Council, February 4th, 1833; appointed Governor, and Captain, and Constable, and Lieutenant of Windsor Castle, August 29th, 1833: he is a Knight Grand Cross of the order of Ferdinand of Wurtemberg, Vice-president of the Royal Asiatic Society, and F. R. S. The Earl of Munster married on the 18th of October, 1819, Miss Mary Wyndham, daughter of the Earl of Egremont, and has had issue five children: 1. Adelaide Georgina; 2. Augusta Margaret; 3. William George Viscount Fitzclarence; 4. Frederick Charles George; and, 5. Mary Gertrude, who died an infant in 1834.

3. Captain Henry Fitzclarence, in the 10th Hussars with his brother until 1814, as above noticed, died in India in 1817, a captain in the 87th foot.

4. Lady Mary Fox, born December 19th, 1798; married June 19th, 1824, to Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Richard Fox, raised to the rank of a Marquis's daughter, May 24th, 1831; appointed housekeeper of Windsor Castle, September 1835; Colonel Fox is a son of Lord and Lady Holland, (born before marriage;) he was appointed Equerry to the Queen, July 1830; Captain Lieutenant-Colonel 1st foot-guards, October 8th 1830; elected M. P. for Calne, June 1831; was appointed Aide-de-camp to his Majesty, May 28th, 1832; elected M. P. for Tavistock, January 1833; appointed Surveyor-General of the Ordnance, November 30th, 1832, and resigned 1833; M. P. for Stroud, 1835, resigned to Lord John Russell.

5. Lord Frederic Fitzclarence, born Dec. 9th, 1799; 23d, Feb. 1820, commanded the detachment of the Coldstream Guards, which assisted in the capture of the Cato-street conspirators; made Lieut. Colonel of the 11th foot, May 19th, 1824; of the 7th Royal

Fusiliers, 1825; resigned, August 1832; appointed Equerry to the King, July 1830; extra Aide-de-camp to the King, with the rank of Colonel, May 6th, 1831; to the rank of a Marquis's son, on the 24th of the same month; Assistant Adjutant-general, September 1832; Lieutenant of the Tower of London in the room of his brother, the Earl of Munster, January 19th, 1833; resigned the following month; Gentleman of the Horse, 1833, and a Knight Grand Cross of the Hanoverian Guelphic order. Lord Frederic married, May 19th, 1821, Lady Augusta Boyle, third daughter of George, fourth and present Earl of Glasgow; and has had issue two children: 1. Augusta Georgina Frederic, and, 2. William Henry Adolphus, who died an infant in 1827.

6. Elizabeth Countess of Errol, born Jan. 18th, 1801; married December 4th, 1820, to William George, 17th Earl of Errol, and Hereditary Lord High Constable of Scotland. The Earl succeeded his father, January 26th, 1819; was appointed Master of the Horse to the Queen in July 1830; and the same year elected a Representative for Scotland; was sworn a Privy Councillor, January 31st, 1831; at the coronation, created Lord Kilmarnock in the peerage of Great Britain, by patent dated May 31st 1831; was appointed Knight Marischal of Scotland, 12th of November, 1832; elected a Knight of the Thistle, April 1834; and appointed Lieutenant and Sheriff Principal of Aberdeenshire, June 1836: they have issue, four children: 1. Adelaide Harriet Augusta; 2. William Henry, Lord Kilmarnock, Page of Honour to his late Majesty, and to the present Queen; 3. Agnes Georgina Elizabeth; and, 4. a daughter born in 1835.

7. Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence, born Feb. 18, 1802; entered the royal navy March, 1818, as midshipman, on board the *Spartan*, 46, Capt. W. F. Wise, C.B.; made a Lieutenant April 23, 1821; appointed to the *Euryalus*, 42, Oct. 22d, that year made commander May 17th, 1823; appointed to the *Brisk* sloop in the North Sea, December 26th, that year; removed to the *Redwing*, 18th of February, 1824, following; and was promoted to the rank of Post Captain, December 24th, 1826; he was appointed to the *Ariadne*, 26, in the Mediterranean, February 9th, 1826; to the *Challenger* 28, July 2d, 1827; and conveyed the Earl of Dalhousie, late Governor-General of Canada, from Quebec to England; to the *Pallas* 42, August 28th, 1828; and conveyed the same nobleman as Commander-in-Chief in the East Indies, and also the new Bishop of Calcutta to Bengal, and brought home Viscount Combermere and staff. After his father's accession, he was made Captain of the *Royal George* Yacht, July 22d, 1830; Groom of the Robes to his Majesty, with rank as a Groom of the Bedchamber; two days after advanced to

the rank of a Marquis's younger son, May 24th, 1831; and made a Lord of the Bedchamber, January 5th, 1833; he is also Deputy Ranger of Bushy-park. In 1832 he conducted a beautiful miniature frigate, as a present to the King of Prussia, and received the cross of the Red Eagle of the first class. Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence is unmarried.

8. Lady Augusta Gordon, born 20th November, 1803; married July 5th, 1827, to the Hon. John Kennedy Erskine; became his widow, March 6th, 1831; was raised to the rank of a Marquis's daughter, May 24 following; married secondly, Aug. 24, 1836, to Lord Frederick Gordon, and was made Housekeeper of Kensington Palace, April, 1837, on the death of her sister, Lady de Lisle. Her first husband was the younger son of Archibald, twelfth Earl of Cassilis (since Marquis of Ailsa, by creation, 1831,) and K.T.; he was a Captain in the 16th Lancers, and made Equerry to the King, 1830. Lady Augusta had issue by this marriage three children:—1. William-Henry; 2. Wilhelmina; 3. Augusta Anne, a posthumous daughter. Her second husband, Lord John Frederick Gordon, is the third son of the present Marquis of Huntley, (late Earl of Aboyne,) and a Commander, R.N.; he was made a Lord of the Bedchamber, October 26, 1836.

9. The Rev. Lord Augustus Fitzclarence, born March 1, 1805; educated at Trinity College, Cambridge; rector of Maple Durham, and chaplain to the Duke of Clarence, 1829; chaplain in ordinary to the King, 1830; raised to the rank of a Marquis's younger son, May 24, 1831; B.C.L. at Cambridge, June 2, 1832; D.C.L. July 6, 1835. His Lordship is unmarried.

10. Amelia, Viscountess Falkland; born November 5, 1803; married December 27, 1830, to Lucius, ninth Viscount Falkland. His Lordship was born in 1803; succeeded his father March 2, 1809; was appointed a Lord of the Bedchamber, December 29, 1830; elected a representative peer for Scotland in 1831; created Baron Hunsdon, of Scutlerskelfe, county of York, in the peerage of the United Kingdom, May 10, 1832; and is a Knight Grand Cross of the Guelphic Order. Lady Falkland has a son, born in 1821.

The surviving grandchildren of his late Majesty, above enumerated, amount to seventeen.

APPENDIX.—No. IV.

HOUSE OF HANOVER.

AMONGST the important political changes growing out of the decease of William IV., the separation of the continental dominions of the British crown from the rule of our present sovereign is not the least remarkable. It was a contingency forgotten by

the nation, and its probable consequences have not yet been sufficiently examined. One party congratulate themselves upon being quietly divorced from a fatal connexion,—another deplore the loss of territory, power, and continental influence. In consequence of the *Salique Law*, still prevailing in the kingdom of Hanover, the empire of Victoria I. does not extend to that country, and the rights and duties of its monarchy devolved on the Duke of Cumberland, fifth son of George III. The intimate connexion between Great Britain and Hanover, since the accession of George I., has now, for the first time, ceased, and all the probabilities are against the re-union of both kingdoms under the same crowned head. It would only be in the event of our Queen's dying without issue, that the union would again take place. Ernest, King of Hanover, would then become King of Great Britain; although the authority of our Queen could not, in any case, extend again to Hanover, the son of the *king* of that country being the heir to that throne. Ernest of Hanover (lately Duke of Cumberland) is the first king of that country who was independent of a foreign power: and it is not a little remarkable, that while, as a subject of this realm, he has taken the oath of allegiance to Queen Victoria, he may, in the interests of his own subjects, be in a condition to declare war against Great Britain at a future period. In taking that oath, he has only imitated George II., who, when his father was elector of Hanover, and he, as second in succession, heir to the throne of England, came to this country to be created Duke of Cambridge, and to swear allegiance, as a British subject, to Q. Anne.

The connexion of the royal family of Stuart with the house of Hanover commenced in this manner: Ernest Augustus, son of George, Duke of Luneburg, who was the first of the princes styled Dukes of Hanover, married, in 1658, Sophia, daughter of Elizabeth, Countess Palatine, and consequently grand-daughter of James I. This was the junior branch of the house of Brunswick. Ernest was the first Elector of Hanover, and had obtained that high honour from the Emperor, from an apprehension of his alliance with France. George Louis, son of this prince, succeeded, in 1698, to the Electorate, and, in 1714, to the throne of Great Britain.

Genealogy of the Ancestors of the House of Hanover, from the Earliest Dawn of Modern History, to Ernest II., Elector and Third King of Hanover. Extracted from Halliday's "Annals of the House of Hanover."

[The Year of the ascertained Death of each Prince is indicated by the figures.]

456. Edico, King of the Scyrii, Herulii, and Rugii. [Killed in a battle with the Ostrogoths, on the banks of the river Bollia.]

489. Anulphus, Hunulphus, or Guelph, from whom this dynasty originates. He settled in Bavaria. [Odoacer, the elder brother of this prince, was the conqueror and first barbarian King of Italy.]

560. Olfigandus, the son of Anulphus, succeeded, but did not take the command of the Bavarians. Served with the Roman army.

590. Uligagus, the son of Olfigandus, continued to serve with Belisarius.

640. Caduinus, whether the son or grandson of Uligagus, is quite uncertain; he lived chiefly in France. Made Duke of Burgundy.

670. Cathicus, the son of Caduinus, was Governor of Alsace.

670. Welfo, son of Cathicus.

687. Welfo II. (not certain) married the heiress of Friuli, and was invested with that duchy.

750. Ado, or Adelbert, Marquis of Friuli. Otkarius, Duke of Burgundy. Ruthard, or Rodoard, Duke of Bavaria. Adelbert succeeded his father in Italy. Ruthard, the eldest brother, inherited the Bavarian possessions.

811. Bonifacius, son of Adelbert, Count of Lucca.

823. Guelph, son of Ruthard, Count of Altdorf.

834. Boniface II., son of Boniface I., Count of Tuscany.

830. Ethico, son of Guelph, Count of Altdorf. His sister was Judith, Empress, 843: his brothers, Conrad, Count of Paris, 862; Rudolph, abbot, 866.

886. Adelbert I., son of Boniface II., Duke of Tuscany.

880. Guelph II., Count of Altdorf, son of Ethico.

912. Rudolph, son of Conrad, Count of Paris, King of Burgundy, 888.

867. Robert the Strong, brother of Rudolph, Count of Paris, and Count of Anjou.

927. Boniface, youngest son of Adelbert I.; his elder brother, Adelbert II., had two sons, Guido and Lambert, Dukes of Tuscany, but they left no issue. [The direct male line of the Tuscan branch ended with the sons of Adelbert II., when the son of Boniface, the younger son of Albert I., the common ancestors of the Countess Matilda of Tuscany, and Marquis of Este, became Margrave of Liguria.]

910. Ethico II., Count of Altdorf. Rudolph II., King of Burgundy, and of Italy, son of Rudolph I., 937. Hugh or Odo, and Robert, sons of Robert the Strong, Counts and Dukes of Paris, 923.

— Adelbert III., eldest son of Boniface, Count of Lucca, succeeded his cousin Lambert as Marquis of Liguria.

925. Henry I., surnamed of the Golden Chariot, Count of Altdorf, and Duke of Bavaria, son of Ethico II. [Henry,

Count of Altdorf, was made Duke of Bavaria, by the Emperor Arnold.]

993. Conrad, King of Burgundy, son of Rudolph II. [Conrad, King of Burgundy, or Arles, reigned for upwards of fifty-six years.]

956. Hugh the Great, Duke of Burgundy, son of Robert, Regent of France. [Hugh succeeded his father, as Duke of Burgundy, and was Governor of France.]

975. Otbert, Count Palatine of Italy, and Marquis of Liguria, only son of Adelbert III. [Otbert, the first Count Palatine, was the undoubted son of Albert III.]

940. Rudolph I., Count of Altdorf, Duke of Nether Bavaria. Conrad, King of Burgundy, still lived, 993. Hugo Capet succeeded his father as Duke of Burgundy (956) and King of France (987), 996. [Rudolph, of Bavaria, his cotemporary, is little known beyond his native state. During the lifetime of these princes, Conrad, King of Burgundy, still lived; but Hugo Capet had succeeded his father, as Duke of Burgundy.]

1014. Otbert II., Marquis of Liguria, Count Palatine of Italy, eldest son of Otbert I. [Rudolph, last King of Burgundy, left no male issue, and the kingdom fell to the Emperor Conrad II., who had married his niece Cisela, the daughter of his sister Gerberga, by Herman II., Duke of Swabia.]

1020. Rudolph II., Count of Altdorf, and Duke of Nether Bavaria.

1032. Rudolph III., last King of Burgundy.

1029. Albert Azo I., eldest son of Othert II., became Marquis of Liguria, 1014, and Marquis of Este, from residing in the castle of Este. He had four brothers, Hugh, Adelbert, Otbert, and Guido.

1036. Guelph II. (sometimes called Wolfard) succeeded his father as Count of Altdorf and Duke of Nether Bavaria, married Imiga, daughter of Frederick, Count of Luxemburgh. [Guelph II., by his marriage with the Princess Imiga, or Irmingarde, acquired a large property in Italy, which he gave with his daughter to her cousin and husband, Azo II.]

1097. Azo II., Marquis of Este, succeeded his father, 1029, and married Cunegunda, the only daughter of Guelph II. of Bavaria, whose son, on the death of her only brother, Guelph, Duke of Carinthia, inherited the states of Altdorf, &c., 1044. [Azo II., by his marriage with Cunegunda, united the two lines of the family of Guelph, which had been separated during eight generations, from 800 to 1036. And their son Guelph, who succeeded his uncle in the allodial states of Altdorf, Ravensberg, and others in Bavaria, was made Sovereign Duke of all Bavaria by Henry IV., 1070.]

1101. Guelph, Count of Altdorf, Duke of Bavaria, married Judith, widow of Tostus, titular King of England. His younger brothers were ancestors of the Dukes of Ferrari and Modena. [This is the first prince of the United families. He was acknowledged the Sovereign Lord of the Italian principalities. But his younger brothers, Hugo and Fulk, by another mother, inherited these states as fiefs.]

1127. Henry the Black succeeded his father as Duke of Bavaria, married Wolfilda, eldest daughter of Magnus Billung. His eldest brother Guelph died without heirs male. [Henry the Black succeeded his father as Duke of Bavaria, and, on the death of Magnus Billung, he got the greater portion of the Saxon states.]

1177. Henry the Proud, succeeded his father as Duke of Bavaria, and was created Duke of Saxony, 1239; married Gertrude, daughter of the Emperor Lothaire, 1143. His elder brother, Conrad, died a monk, 1126: his younger brother, Guelph, was Duke of Spoleto, 1191: his nephew, Guelph, died in his youth, 1168. [Henry the Proud succeeded to the Duchy of Bavaria on the death of his elder brother, and was invested with the Duchy of Saxony by his father-in-law. Conrad, his elder brother, preferred the retirement of the cloister to the pomp of reigning as Duke of Bavaria; his younger brother, Guelph, was provided for in Italy; but his only son dying in his youth, this line failed.]

1195. Henry the Lion, Duke of Bavaria and Saxony, married Matilda, Princess Royal of England, 1189. [Henry the Lion succeeded to both duchies, but was deprived of Saxony for a time, and afterwards lost both, together with his uncle's Italian estates.]

1213. William, Prince of Luneburg, married Helen, daughter of Waldemar I., King of Denmark. His eldest brother, Henry I., was Count Palatine of the Rhine, and his next brother, 1227, Otho, Emperor of Germany. These two left no male heirs, 1218. [William, the youngest son of Henry the Lion, never had any other title than that of Prince, or Duke of Luneburg. He died before his elder brothers: he was the only one of the family that left male issue. The Count Palatine had a son that died young, and two daughters that survived him. Otho, the Emperor, had no issue.]

1252. Otho the Child, only son of William, succeeded his uncle Henry as Duke of Luneburg, Duke of Brunswick and Luneburg, in 1235; married Matilda, daughter of Albert II., Margrave of Brandenburg, 1261. [Otho, surnamed the Child, only son of William, Prince of Luneburg, succeeded to the whole of the Brunswick states on the death of his uncle Henry,

Count Palatine. He was created Duke of Brunswick and Luneberg, by the Emperor Frederick II., 1235.]

1279. Albert the Great, Duke of Brunswick, married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry V., Duke of Brabant, 1261. His younger brother John got the half of the Duchy, and reigned as Duke of Luneburg 1277. [Albert, the eldest son of Otho, governed the entire duchy for some time; but the country was afterwards divided between him and his younger brother John, who was the first Duke of Luneburg.]

1318. Albert II. (or, the Fat) the second son of Albert I., was Duke of Brunswick-Gottingen; married Reihenza, Princess of Werle, 1314. [The Duchy of Brunswick, which remained as the portion of Albert I., was subdivided between his two sons, Henry and Albert II. Henry got the Principality of Grubenhagen, and Albert, Gottingen.]

1369. Magnus I., seventh son of Albert II., was Duke of the Principality of Brunswick Proper. He married Sophia Agnes, daughter of Henry, Margrave of Brandenburg. [The portion of Albert II. was again divided among his three sons, Otho, Magnus, and Ernest, and formed the Duchies of Gottingen, Brunswick, and Wolfenbittel, which continued distinct for three generations.]

1383. Magnus II., (or Torquatus,) sixth son of Magnus I., succeeded his father at Brunswick; married Catherine, daughter of Waldemar, Prince of Anhalt, 1380. [Magnus II. succeeded of right to the states of Luneburg, on the extinction of the male line of John, brother of Albert I., in 1369; but his claim was disputed by the Dukes of Saxony.]

1434. Bernhard, second son of Magnus II., succeeded his father as Duke of Luneburg; married Margaret, Princess of Saxony. [A second division of the Duchy of Brunswick and Luneburg was made between the two sons of Magnus II.; Bernhard got Luneburg; and Henry, the youngest son, Brunswick.]

1478. Frederick, second son of Bernhard, became Duke of Luneburg; married Magdalene, Princess of Brandenburg, 1453. [Otho, the elder brother of Frederick, enjoyed the states of Luneburg during his life, but he had no issue, and Frederick succeeded at his death.]

1471. Otho, youngest son of Frederick, died before his father. He married Ann, daughter of John of Nassau, 1514. [Bernhard, the eldest son of Frederick, was put in possession of the duchy by his father, but he died at Celle in 1464, and left no issue; Otho, his brother, then succeeded, as their father remained in a convent; but at Otho's death, Frederick resumed the government, for the benefit of his grandson.]

1532. Henry, only son of Otho, succeeded his grandfather Frederick, as Duke of Luneburg, 1478; married Margaret, daughter of Frederick, Elector of Saxony, 1528.

1547. Ernest, the Confessor, second son of Henry, became Administrator of Luneburg, in conjunction with his elder and younger brothers, Otho and Francis. Married Sophia, daughter of Henry Duke of Mecklenburg, 1541. Henry was banished, on account of the civil wars in Luneburg and Brunswick, but his sons were allowed to govern the duchy for him; after his death, Otho, the eldest, retired to Harburg, and Francis, the youngest, took the principality of Gifforn, so that Ernest remained in possession of Luneburg, which he transmitted to his second son, William. Brunswick Wolfenbittel, and other states, went to Henry, the eldest son of Ernest.]

1592. William, Duke of Luneburg, succeeded his father, as Duke of Luneburg, when his elder brother Henry, got the Duchy of Brunswick Wolfenbittel, 1598. William married Dorothea, daughter of Christian III., King of Denmark, 1617. [This was the third and last division of the duchy of Brunswick and Luneburg; Augustus, the youngest son of Henry, succeeded to the government of Brunswick, and the sons of George inherited Luneburg. There were seven of these sons, and they drew lots which should marry; George proved successful, and had four sons, among whom he divided the states of Luneburg, in two equal portions. Celle was made the capital of the first division, and Hanover that of the other. The eldest was to have his choice, and the second son to govern that portion which the eldest refused. The younger sons were to have no sovereign principality. George Louis, eldest son of Ernest Augustus, married his cousin, the only daughter of his uncle, George William, the eldest surviving son of George, and their only son, George Augustus, (George II.) succeeded to the entire division of Luneburg or Celle, and Hanover. The Electorate of Hanover was made a kingdom in 1815.—The entire of the division of Brunswick centred in the grandfather of the present Duke of Brunswick, in 1780.]

1641. George, sixth son of William, resided at Hertzberg and Hanover. Married Anne Elenora, daughter of Louis V., Landgrave of Hesse Darmstadt. 1659.

Ernest Augustus, youngest son of George, Bishop of Osnaburg, Duke of Hanover; and, in 1692, Elector of Hanover. Married, 1698, Sophia, daughter of Frederick V., Elector Palatine, by Elizabeth Stuart, Princess Royal of England, 1714.

1727. George Louis, eldest son of Ernest Augustus, Elector of Hanover, and 22d August, 1714, King of England.

1760. George II., (Augustus,) King of England, only son of George I.

1751. Frederick, Prince of Wales, eldest son of George II., died before his father.

George III., (William Frederick,) eldest son of Frederick, Prince of Wales, succeeded his grandfather, 1760.

George IV., eldest son of George III., succeeded his father, January 29, 1820.

William IV., third son of George III., succeeded his brother, George IV., June 26, 1830.

Ernest II., fifth son of George III., succeeded his brother, William IV., June 20, 1837.

APPENDIX.—No. V.

ANCESTRY OF ADELAIDE, QUEEN DOWAGER OF ENGLAND.

THE following particulars relating to the history of the Ernestine line of the family of Saxe, cannot fail to be interesting, at the present juncture, to our inquiring countrymen. Eminent virtues of ancestors deserve to be recalled to view, whether as contrasts or as encouragements, but especially when there is reason to believe that their descendants sincerely imitate the examples which have such high claims on their regard.

Queen Adelaide's direct ancestors, in the sixteenth century, were the three successive Electors of Saxony, to whose names, after their nobly-spent lives were ended, their surviving contemporaries, with the approving voice of posterity, affixed the epithets, without flattery, deserved and characteristic, by which they are known in history—Frederic the Wise—John the Constant—and John Frederic the Magnanimous. The heroic honour of these illustrious men, their devotedness to the cause of human happiness and liberty; the treachery, cruelty, and tyranny which affected the deposition of the last of them, and robbed his family of the rich domains and dignity of the Electorate, can be but imperfectly judged of from the frigid statements of our own historians. Probably the best and fullest accounts to which the English reader can be referred, are to be found in Dean Milner's Ecclesiastical History, with continuations by Joseph Milner.

After the death of the deposed Elector, his son, of the same name, was prevailed upon by the Count Von Gumbach, a des-

perate adventurer, to attempt the recovery of his hereditary dominions. The rash attempt failed, as might have been reasonably anticipated; and he languished in prison, a victim to the ungenerous vengeance of the Austrian government, till death released him, after twenty-eight years, in 1595. In the mean time, the duchies of Gotha and Weimar were vested in his younger brother, John William. He was succeeded by his son, the Duke John, of whose ten sons, two acquired an enduring name in some of the most interesting records of the history of the seventeenth century.

One of them was Bernard, Duke of Weimar. He joined the deliverer of Germany, Gustavus Adolphus, accompanied him in his triumphant career, and, when he fell at Lützen, contributed mainly to secure the victory of that terrible day. He was then intrusted with the command of the chief part of the Germano-Swedish army. Providence smiled upon his undertakings. Among other great successes, he conquered the Brisgau, the most ancient possession of the house of Hapsburg; and he would have added this small but valuable district to his own little domain, had he not been circumvented by the intrigues of Cardinal Richelieu. The wily ecclesiastic sought to allure the frank and heroic Saxon from his course of service to his country and the Protestant cause, by proposing a marriage with the Duchess D'Aigullon; but Bernard rejected the insidious offer, (A.D. 1639.) Soon afterwards he died, in his 35th year, after two days' illness, declaring his persuasion that poison had been administered to him by the contrivance of Richelieu. "In him," says Schiller, "the allies lost the greatest captain that they possessed after Gustavus Adolphus." In the school of Gustavus he was trained; he closely followed his exalted pattern, and he wanted only a longer life to have equalled or excelled it. With the bravery of the fighting soldier, he united the cool and calm glance of the general—with the rapid resolution of a youth, the persevering courage of a man—with the wildfire of the warrior, the dignity of the prince, the moderation of the sage, and the conscientiousness of the (Christian) man of honour.

One of his elder brothers was Ernest I. Duke of Gotha and Altenburgh, whose name, with the epithet *The Pious*, is to the present day a mark-word of affection and honour among the descendants of his subjects. He also joined the pious Swedish hero in the ever-memorable expedition for the deliverance of Germany, and rendered many essential services. In particular, on the day of Lützen, he sustained the shock of the fresh troops brought up by the fierce Pappenheim, (the Telamonian Ajax of the Imperial army, who also fell in the dreadful slaughter,) and turned back that last onset of despair and rage.

Soon after, at the request of Bernard, he left the army, and devoted himself to heal the wounds, and repair the ruins, of their contiguous territories. The miseries which the thirty years' war had inflicted upon the whole of Germany were such as to baffle description. Ernest became, in every sense, the restorer and father of the country over which his authority or influence extended. He encouraged and assisted to the utmost in the rebuilding of habitations and public edifices, the revival of agriculture, the promotion of river-navigation, and the advancement of every kind of industry and peaceful enjoyment. He gave a beneficent constitution, and settled laws; and he re-organised the system of administration, by which he raised his states to an unexampled degree of security and social happiness. He restored or founded schools and colleges for all ranks; and for the poor, hospitals, alms-houses, and orphan-schools. He took the greatest pains to obtain pious, candid, and laborious clergymen, to supply all the towns and villages. He laboured to allay differences and controversies of all kinds, and to promote a kind and pacific disposition in the minds of contending theologians, whose zeal for formularies of human invention had made them too forgetful of evangelical charity. He employed powerful and liberal means for the universal distribution of the Bible, and, that it might be not only possessed in every house, but diligently read, understood, and obeyed. He took a deep interest in plans for the extension of the Christian religion in heathen and unenlightened countries. To promote this object, he sent an embassy to the King of Abyssinia, and took other active measures wherever he conceived hopes of success. For the education of his children he adopted the wisest plans, and to their private religious instruction in scriptural knowledge, and its practical application, the Duke contributed his personal labours with affectionate devotion and persevering regularity. And, to crown all, his own character, in all the virtues of public and private life, was an unaffected and consistent illustration of the Bible-religion, which he took so much pains to inculcate on his children and subjects. This good and great Prince died in 1675, aged 74. "His will," says a German authority, "is a mirror for rulers, and all Princes would do well to take lectures from it." He was the founder of the New or United House of Gotha. It was his wish to preserve the unity of his dominions, but his plan for that purpose could not be carried into effect; and shortly after his death the domain was divided among his seven sons. Hence arose those seven subdivisions of this branch of the Ernestine line of the ancient electoral house of Saxony, which often perplex English readers of modern history—the houses of Saxe-Gotha, Coburg, Meiningen, Romhild, Eisenberg, Hildburg-

hausen, and Saalfeld. The last four have, by the failure of heirs, or by marriages and treaties, been incorporated into the preceding three. The third of those seven sons was Bernard, who received as his appanage the Duchy of Saxe-Meiningen; and by the death of his brother Albert, in 1699, obtained some accession of territory; he died in 1706: and the inheritance passed to his three sons, who reigned jointly. Of them the survivor was Antony Ulrich. On his death, in 1763, the succession and the political administration were vested in his two sons, Augustus Frederick Charles, and George Frederick Charles; the former of whom dying in 1782, the entire possession remained with his brother, the late Duke George, the father of the Princess who became the Queen of William IV. He died December 24th, 1803, leaving three children; the Queen Dowager, who is the eldest; the Princess Ida, born in 1794, and married in 1816 to Bernard, son of the Archduke Charles Augustus, of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach; and Bernard Henry, who was only three years old at the death of his father. His mother the Duchess Dowager, administered the government till December, 1821, when the Duke had completed his 21st year. In 1825, he married Mary, daughter of William II. Prince of Hesse-Cassel.

The extent of the territory of Saxe-Meiningen is 41·78 square German miles, equal to about 680 square English miles, and the population 140,400, that is, a little larger than Hertfordshire, and about as populous. The principal town, Meiningen, contains nearly 5,000 inhabitants. The people of the entire country are supported by agriculture, a few simple manufactures, and their mutual trade. They are governed according to the constitution of Ernest the Pious, and have an elective house of representatives, the members of which are chosen for six years.

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